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PAGE TURNER



Without evidence, Trump claims documents confirm misconduct

In a Nov. 2, 2017 file photo, Carter Page, a foreign policy adviser to Donald Trump's 2016 presidential campaign, speaks with reporters following a day of questions from the House Intelligence Committee, on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Associated Press
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Defense bill would curb Cabinet control of nuclear agency

By MATTHEW DALY

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The agency that supervises the nation's nuclear weapons stockpile would essentially lose direct Cabinet oversight under legislation that Congress is negotiating.

The little-noticed provision in a defense policy bill is opposed by the Trump administration and senior lawmakers from both parties, but efforts to scrap it have not overcome resistance from staffers on the Senate Armed Services Committee.

At issue in the Senate-approved bill is whether the National Nuclear Security Administration remains under the direct control of the Energy Department, where it's been since its creation in 2000.

The bill would empower that agency to act nearly on its own, freed from what a report by the Senate committee calls a "flawed DOE organizational process" that has led to "weak accountability ... insufficient program and budget expertise and poor contract management."

That report cites a series of delays and cost overruns at the agency, including a contentious project to reprocess weapons-grade plutonium and uranium into fuel for commercial reactors. The cost of the Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility in South Carolina has ballooned from \$1.4 billion in 2004 to more than \$17 billion and completion is decades away. The Energy Department has moved to cancel the project, but it remains open — at a cost of \$1.2 million a day — amid a legal challenge by the state of South Carolina.

The White House and Energy Secretary Rick Perry strongly oppose the reorganization, saying it would

the safety and security of all Americans to remove this provision from the bill and continue NNSA to be

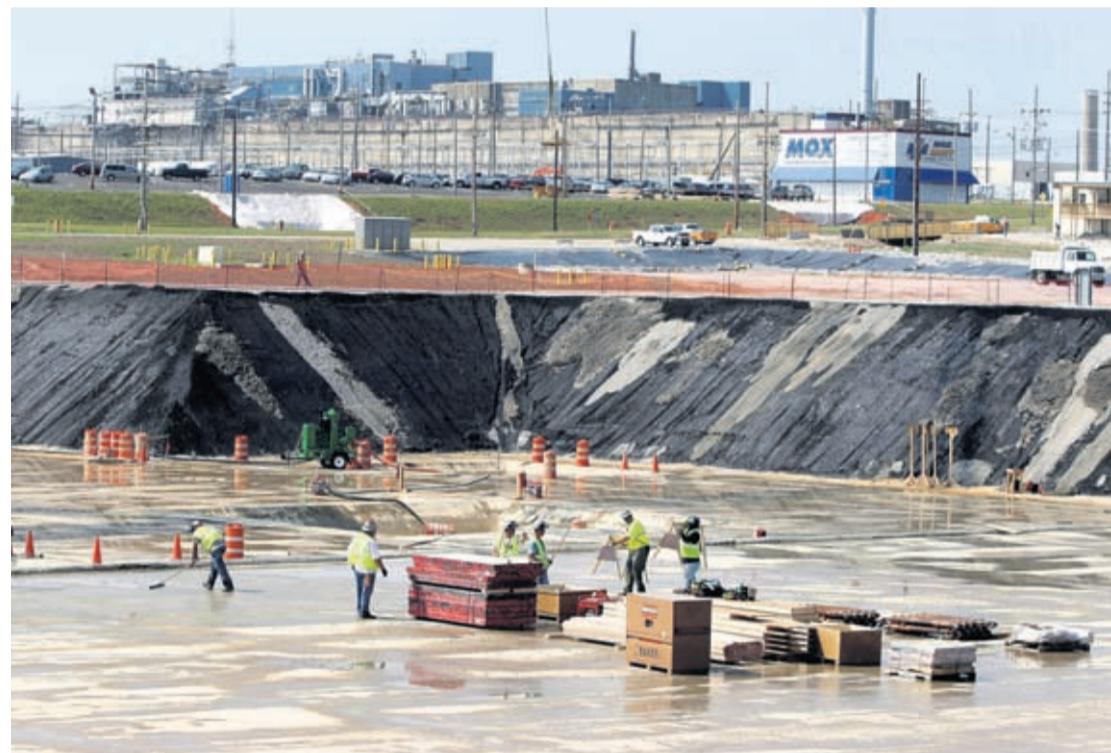
questions about the long-term consequences," Sens. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, and Maria Cantwell, D-

Washington, said in a letter to the Senate Armed Services Committee. Agency staffers, frustrated by delays that occur as the Energy Department's general counsel and other officials review their work, took their case to Senate committee staffers, according to the aide, who spoke on condition of anonymity in order to discuss internal deliberations. The committee chairman, Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., has been away from the Capitol since December as he fights brain cancer. Sen. James Inhofe, R-Okla., has led the committee in McCain's absence but has not played a role in the nuclear agency dispute.

In its staff-written report, the committee said the proposal was not "an indictment of the current Energy secretary" but rather an effort to "address a number of structural impediments" that have "damaged the NNSA's ability to carry out its mission."

A committee spokeswoman declined to comment, as did representatives for Inhofe and Rhode Island Sen. Jack Reed, the committee's top Democrat. Spokesmen for leaders of the House Armed Service Committee also declined to comment.

Perry told Congress this year that there have been "historically questionable expenditures of dollars" on the MOX project and other NNSA contracts, but said officials were working to ensure taxpayers "are getting a good return on our investment." □



This Aug. 1, 2007, file photo, shows construction crews are seen as they work on early stages of a new mixed oxide fuel, or MOX fabrication facility at the Savannah River nuclear complex near Aiken, S.C.

Associated Press

usurp Perry's authority to set policy in crucial areas and make the nuclear agency's general counsel independent of the Energy Department's legal division. The White House said in a statement that the bill would block the energy secretary from directing civil and national security functions at the agency and "degrade" the secretary's ability to protect the health, safety and security of employees and the public. A Perry spokeswoman, Shaylyn Hynes, called the plan "misguided" and said it would "weaken national security efforts by limiting DOE's critical role in managing America's nuclear weapons capabilities."

"It is in the best interest of

represented by a Cabinet-level official, allowing DOE and NNSA's complementary relationship to remain strong," Hynes said.

The NNSA said in a statement that while intended to improve efficiencies, "the changes put forward by the Senate committee would significantly limit the secretary's ability to fulfill his nuclear security missions and ... lead to unnecessary duplication of effort at NNSA for work already being carried out by DOE."

The leaders of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee said the plan was "a major step backward."

"To reduce the secretary's authority in such a sweeping way raises serious

Wash., said in a letter to the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Murkowski and Cantwell supported Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, as he tried unsuccessfully to remove the provision during Senate debate on the defense bill last month. A later Cruz effort also failed on procedural grounds. Criticism of the nuclear agency isn't new. A congressional commission led by a former Army undersecretary and retired Navy admiral concluded in 2014 that it had failed in its mission and relied too heavily on private contractors that had turned it into a massive jobs program with duplicative functions and a "dysfunctional management and operations rela-

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Without evidence, Trump claims documents confirm misconduct

By ZEKE MILLER

Associated Press

BRIDGEWATER, N.J. (AP) —

President Donald Trump asserted without evidence Sunday that newly released documents relating to the wiretapping of his onetime campaign adviser Carter Page "confirm with little doubt" that intelligence agencies misled the court that approved the warrant. But lawmakers from both political parties said that the documents don't show wrongdoing and that they even appear to undermine some previous claims by top Republicans on the basis for obtaining a warrant against Page.

Visible portions of the heavily redacted documents, released Saturday under the Freedom of Information Act, show the FBI telling the court that Page "has been collaborating and conspiring with the Russian government." The agency also told the court that "the FBI believes Page has been the subject of targeted recruitment by the Russian government."

The documents were part of officials' application for a warrant to the secretive foreign intelligence surveillance court, which signed off on surveilling Page.

Trump tweeted Sunday on the documents: "As usual they are ridiculously heavily redacted but confirm with little doubt that the Department of 'Justice' and FBI misled the courts. Witch Hunt Rigged, a Scam!"

The release appears to undercut some of the contentions in a memo prepared by House Intelligence

Committee Chairman Rep. Devin Nunes earlier this year. Nunes, R-Calif., and other Republicans had said that anti-Trump research in a dossier prepared by former British intelligence agent Christopher Steele and paid for by Democrats was used inappropriately to obtain the warrant on Page. While the documents confirm that the FBI relied, in part, on information from Steele to obtain the initial warrant, they also show how the FBI informed the court of his likely motivation. A page-long footnote in the warrant application lays out the FBI's assessment of Steele's history and the likely interest of his backer, adding that despite the political concern, the bureau believed at least some of his report to be "credible."

Democratic Rep. Adam Schiff of California, a ranking member on the House Intelligence Committee, said the documents detail "just why the FBI was so concerned that Carter Page might be acting as an agent of a foreign power."

"It was a solid application and renewals signed by four different judges appointed by three different Republican presidents," Schiff said on ABC's "This Week."

Republican Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida also broke with Trump, saying he didn't think the FBI did anything wrong in obtaining warrants against Page.

"I have a different view on this issue than the president and the White House," Ru-

bio said Sunday on CBS' "Face the Nation." "They did not spy on the campaign from anything and everything that I have seen. You have an individual here who has openly bragged about his ties to Russia and Russians."

On Sunday, Page said on CNN's "State of the Union": "I've never been the agent of a foreign power."

In a 2013 letter, Page had described himself as an "informal adviser" to the Kremlin but now said "it's really spin" to call him an adviser. □



President Donald Trump and first lady Melania Trump walk from Marine One to board Air Force One at Morristown Municipal Airport, in Morristown, N.J., Sunday, July 22, 2018, en route to Washington after staying at Trump National Golf Club in Bedminster, N.J.

Associated Press



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Democratic socialism surging in the age of Trump

By STEVE PEOPLES

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — A week ago, Maine Democrat Zak Ringelstein wasn't quite ready to consider himself a member of the Democratic Socialists of America, even if he appreciated the organization's values and endorsement in his bid to become a U.S. senator.

Three days later, he told The Associated Press it was time to join up. He's now the only major-party Senate candidate in the nation to be a dues-paying democratic socialist.

Ringelstein's leap is the latest evidence of a nationwide surge in the strength and popularity of an organization that, until recently, operated on the fringes of the liberal movement's farthest left flank. As Donald Trump's presidency stretches into its second year, democratic socialism has become a significant force in Democratic politics. Its rise comes as Democrats debate whether moving too far left will turn off voters.

"I stand with the democratic socialists, and I have decided to become a dues-paying member," Ringelstein told AP. "It's time to do what's right, even if it's not easy."

There are 42 people running for offices at the federal, state and local levels this year with the formal endorsement of the Democratic Socialists of America, the organization says. They span 20 states, including Florida, Hawaii, Kansas and Michigan.

The most ambitious Democrats in Washington have been reluctant to embrace the label, even as they embrace the policies defining modern-day democratic socialism: Medicare for all, a \$15 minimum wage, free college tuition and the abolition of the federal department of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, also known as ICE.

Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, Congress' only self-identified democratic socialist, campaigned Friday with the movement's newest star, New York City



Zak Ringelstein, center, a Democratic candidate for U.S. Senate in Maine, eats a potluck dinner during a gathering prior to a meeting of the Southern Maine Democratic Socialists of America at City Hall in Portland, Maine, Monday, July 16, 2018.

Associated Press

congressional candidate Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez, a 28-year-old former bartender who defeated one of the most powerful House Democrats last month.

Her victory fed a flame that was already beginning to burn brighter. The DSA's paid membership has hovered around 6,000 in the years before Trump's election, said Allie Cohn, a member of the group's national political team. Last week, its paid membership hit 45,000 nationwide.

There is little distinction made between the terms "democratic socialism" and "socialism" in the group's literature. While Ringelstein and other DSA-backed candidates promote a "big-tent" philosophy, the group's constitution describes its members as socialists who "reject an economic order based on private profit" and "share a vision of a humane social order based on popular control of resources and production, economic planning, equitable distribution, feminism, racial equality and non-oppressive relationships."

Members during public meetings often refer to each other "comrades," wear clothing featuring socialist symbols like the rose and promote authors such as Karl Marx.

The common association with the failed Soviet Union

has made it difficult for sympathetic liberals to explain their connection.

"I don't like the term socialist, because people do associate that with bad things in history," said Kansas congressional candidate James Thompson, who is endorsed by the DSA and campaigned alongside Sanders and Ocasio-Cortez, but is not a dues-paying democratic socialist. "There's definitely a lot of their policies that closely align with mine."

Thompson, an Army veteran turned civil rights attorney, is running again after narrowly losing a special election last year to fill the seat vacated by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. Even in deep-red Kansas, he embraces policies like "Medicare for all" and is openly critical of capitalism.

In Hawaii, 29-year-old state Rep. Kaniela Ing isn't shy about promoting his status as a democratic socialist in his bid for Congress. He said he was encouraged to run for higher office by the same activist who recruited Ocasio-Cortez.

"We figured just lean in hard," Ing told the AP of the democratic socialist label. He acknowledged some baby boomers may be scared away, but said the policies democratic socialists promote — like free health care and economic equality — aren't extreme.

Republicans, meanwhile, are encouraged by the rise of democratic socialism — for a far different reason. They have seized on what they view as a leftward lurch by Democrats they predict will alienate voters this fall and in the 2020 presidential race.

The Republican National Committee eagerly notes that Sanders' plan to provide free government-sponsored health care for all Americans had no co-sponsors in 2013. Today, more than one-third of Senate Democrats and two-thirds of House Democrats have signed onto the proposal, which by one estimate could cost taxpayers as much as \$32 trillion.

The co-sponsors include some 2020 presidential prospects, such as Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker, New York Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand and California Sen. Kamala Harris. Those senators aren't calling themselves democratic socialists but also not disassociating themselves from the movement's priorities.

Most support the push to abolish ICE, which enforces immigration laws and led the Trump administration's recent push to separate immigrant families at the U.S.-Mexico border.

Of the group, only Booker hasn't called for ICE to be abolished, replaced or rebuilt. Yet Booker's office

notes that he's among the few senators backing a plan to guarantee government-backed jobs to unemployed adults in high-unemployment communities across America.

"Embracing socialist policies like government-run health care, a guaranteed jobs program and open borders will only make Democrats more out of touch," RNC Chair Ronna Romney McDaniel said.

Despite Ocasio-Cortez's recent success, most DSA-endorsed candidates have struggled.

Gayle McLaughlin finished eighth in last month's Democratic primary to become California's lieutenant governor, earning just 4 percent of the vote. All three endorsed candidates for Maryland's Montgomery County Council lost last month as well. And Ryan Fenwick was blown out by 58 points in his run to become mayor of Louisville, Kentucky.

Ringelstein, a 32-year-old political neophyte, is expected to struggle in his campaign to unseat Maine Sen. Angus King, an independent who caucuses with Democrats. He is refusing to accept donations from lobbyists or corporate political action committees, which has made fundraising a grind. At the end of June, King's campaign reported \$2.4 million cash on hand while Ringelstein had just \$23,000.

He has tapped into the party's national progressive movement and the southern Maine chapter of the DSA for the kind of grassroots support that fueled Ocasio-Cortez's victory. As he has done almost every month this year, Ringelstein attended the group's monthly meeting at Portland's city hall last Monday. More than 60 people packed into the room. The group's chairman, 25-year-old union organizer Meg Reilly, wore a T-shirt featuring three roses.

"We could win a U.S. Senate seat!" he said. "I want to say that over and over. We could win a U.S. Senate seat! So, let's do this." □

Gala opens countdown to 50th anniversary of 1st moon landing

By ALEX SANZ and MIKE SCHNEIDER

Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla.

(AP) — Former NASA astronaut Buzz Aldrin was noticeably absent from a gala kicking off a yearlong celebration of the 50th anniversary of the first moon landing, even though his nonprofit space education foundation is a sponsor and he typically is the star attraction.

No explanation was given for Aldrin's absence from the Apollo Celebration Gala on Saturday evening. But the former astronaut is locked in a legal battle with family members who say he is suffering from mental decline. The black-tie event, held under a Saturn V rocket at the Kennedy Space Center, featured a panel discussion by astronauts, an awards ceremony, and an auction of space memorabilia.

Hundreds of people attended the sold-out event, including British physicist Brian Cox, who presented Virgin Galactic founder Richard Branson with the ShareSpace Foundation's Innovation award.

Branson, whose company is developing a new generation of commercial spacecraft, said in a recorded video that the Apollo missions influenced his generation.

"Space is still hard, really hard. It still really matters," Branson said. "There would be no Virgin Galactic, no Virgin Orbit and no spaceship company had it not been for Apollo astronauts and the thousands of talented people who made their mission possible."

Dr. Carolyn Williams of the nonprofit From One Hand To AnOTHER received the foundation's Education award, and former Johnson Space Center director Gerry Griffin, a flight director for all of the crewed Apollo missions, was honored with the Pioneer award.

"It's very humbling, it kind of came out of the blue," Griffin said. "It is so neat to

know that we've passed the torch that will let this next generation take us to this next step."

That next step, Griffin said, is a return of Americans to the Moon and, eventually, Mars — something former Apollo astronauts Walt Cunningham, Harrison Schmitt, Rusty Schweickart and Tom Stafford discussed during a conversation with Cox.

"We're sort of going through a second door here. The door isn't all the way open — we haven't gone all the way through it — but it's cracked open," Schweickart, who flew as the lunar module pilot on Apollo 9, told The Associated Press. "Space is going to be much less expensive to go to, and that's going to open up not just opportunities for people to fly, but because of the decreased cost, real opportunities for innovators to generate new ideas and to do things that have never been done before."

Aldrin's ShareSpace Foundation is one of the sponsors of the annual gala, which raises money for Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics — or STEAM education — and Astronaut Scholarship Foundation scholarships. Renowned Brazilian pop artist Romero Britto donated artwork from his "Buzz Aldrin Space Series" for the auction, which also included a behind-the-scenes tour of Virgin Galactic in California and autographed space memorabilia. Tickets for the event ranged from \$750 to \$2,500 per person.

The former astronaut's expected absence comes just a month after he sued two of his adult children and a former business manager, accusing them of misusing his credit cards, transferring money from an account and slandering him by saying he has dementia. Only weeks before the lawsuit, Andrew and Jan Aldrin filed a petition claiming their 88-year-old



In this July 15, 2017, file photo, Apollo 11 astronaut Buzz Aldrin speaks at the commemoration for the upcoming anniversary of the 1969 mission to the moon and a gala for his non-profit space education foundation, ShareSpace Foundation, at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Fla.

Associated Press

father was suffering from memory loss, delusions, paranoia and confusion. Andrew and Jan Aldrin, as well as business manager

Christina Korp, are on the foundation's board and attended the gala. Aldrin's oldest son, James, isn't involved in the legal fight. □

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Questioning real-world learning at ultra-Orthodox schools

By KAREN MATTHEWS

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — At the ultra-Orthodox Jewish schools Pesach Eisen attended in Brooklyn, most of the day was spent studying religious texts with classes taught in Yiddish. One class at the end of the day was spent on secular subjects including English and math, enough to be "able to go to the food stamps office and apply."

"Everything was super basic. ... Nobody took it seriously, so even if you were a studious person you had no chance," said the now-32-year-old Eisen, who had to take remedial classes and study intensively on his own before he succeeded in graduating from college in 2016.

Complaints that schools like Eisen's run by New York's strictly observant Hasidic Jews barely teach English, math, science or social studies have fueled a movement to demand stricter oversight by state and local educational authorities. Critics plan to file a lawsuit on Monday in federal court, seeking to stop the state from enforcing legislation that was intended to shield the schools, called yeshivas, from some



In this July 18, 2018 photo, Pesach Eisen poses in front of a yeshiva he attended as a child in the Borough Park neighborhood in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Associated Press

government oversight.

"When we grew up there was no such thing as big aspirations — 'I want to be a doctor, I want to be a lawyer, I want to be a businessman,'" said Eisen, who no longer practices the ultra-Orthodox faith. "It's, 'I want to be a rabbi. That's the only thing.'" Defenders of the yeshivas say parents have the right to send their children to schools that provide a Jewish edu-

cation consistent with their beliefs and traditions.

"We specifically for generations have chosen this kind of education for our children," says Ari Goldberg, who has seven children attending Hasidic yeshivas in Brooklyn. "This is what we want. Why should it be taken away?"

The yeshiva backers also say critics err by just counting the minutes of a school day spent on secular stud-

ies.

"The problem solving, the literacy, the critical thinking, all that is in Judaica studies as well," said Yitzchok Kaufman, a Brooklyn yeshiva alumnus and parent. The planned lawsuit by Young Advocates for Fair Education, or YAFFED, which is pushing for improved secular education in the ultra-Orthodox schools, names Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo and the state Department of Education's top two officials as defendants.

Department of Education spokeswoman Emily De-Santis said the department is working on updating its guidance on equivalency of instruction at the yeshivas.

There are about 275 Orthodox Jewish yeshivas in New

York state, but many are modern Orthodox schools that provide a full secular curriculum along with religious studies.

YAFFED founder Naftuli Muster said the Hasidic yeshivas where secular education is generally given short shrift number 83 in New York City and 38 in other parts of the state. An estimated 115,000 children attend the schools.

For boys in the Hasidic yeshiva system, the emphasis is on studying religious texts. Classes are taught in Yiddish, the language spoken in most Hasidic homes. Secular subjects are relegated to the end of the long school day, when the boys are restless and inattentive, critics say.

Once the boys reach high school, they don't study secular subjects, devoting their entire day to the Torah, Talmud and other Jewish texts.

Hasidic girls can't study Talmud and therefore learn more English, math and social studies than the boys do, though taboo subjects such as evolution and sex education are typically omitted.

"They erased anything about dinosaurs," said Shavy Rosenberg, who attended Hasidic schools for girls. "Anything more than 5,000 years old was erased."

Although the schools are private, they are not entirely free of government oversight because of a state law requiring that instruction in non-public schools be substantially equivalent to the instruction given at the local public school. □

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ASHORE TO ASSIST ON HOLIDAY

Gunman in Trader Joe's standoff looking at murder charge

By MICHAEL BALSAMO

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A gunman who took dozens of people hostage at a Trader Joe's store in Los Angeles was booked Sunday on suspicion of murder, after an employee was killed during the man's shootout with police, in what the supermarket chain described as the worst day in its history.

Gene Evin Atkins, 28, remained behind bars on Sunday in lieu of \$2 million bail, according to Officer Drake Madison, a Los Angeles police spokesman. Atkins had been licensed to work as a security guard, but his license expired in November 2017, according to state records. It was not clear whether the particular license he possessed would have allowed him to legally carry a firearm.

A 27-year-old Trader Joe's employee, Melyda Corado, was killed as Atkins ran into the supermarket in the city's Silver Lake neighborhood on Saturday. Police did not provide any additional details on Sunday and it remained unclear whether she died from police gunfire or was killed by the gunman.

Investigators believe Atkins shot his grandmother seven times and wounded another woman, who police initially described as his girlfriend, at his South Los Angeles home earlier Saturday afternoon.

He stole his grandmother's car after the shooting, according to police, and forced the other woman into the vehicle. Officers had tracked the car using a stolen-vehicle tracking system and tried to stop

the man in Hollywood, but he refused to pull over, police said. During the chase, he fired at officers, shooting out the back window of his car.

More gunfire ensued before Atkins crashed into a pole outside the supermarket. The man exchanged gunfire with police again and that's when Corado was shot and killed, Police Chief Michel Moore said. Customers and employees frantically dove for cover and barricaded themselves inside storerooms and bathrooms as bullets fired by police shattered the store's glass doors.

As he heard gunfire, Sean Gerace, who was working in the back of the supermarket, grabbed several of his co-workers and the group made their way into an upstairs storage area. He grabbed a folding ladder and tossed it out a window, helping his colleagues escape to safety, he told KNBC-TV.

"I grabbed an emergency ladder, barricaded the hallway, grabbed a weapon, put the ladder out the window and just tried to get the attention of the SWAT officer," Gerace told the television station.

Heavily armed officers in riot gear stood along the side of the store and used mirrors to look inside as hostage negotiators tried to coax the man into freeing his 40 to 50 hostages and surrendering. Meanwhile, police removed the female passenger in the car, who had a graze wound, from the scene.

About three hours later, Atkins agreed to handcuff himself and walked out the front door, surrounded by

four of the hostages. His grandmother was taken to a hospital in critical condition but her current condition was not immediately known.

On Sunday, grieving family members, co-workers and customers remembered Corado as lively, hardworking and always smiling. A makeshift memorial of flowers, candles and notes grew on the sidewalk outside of the store on Sunday. "I'm sad to say she didn't make it. My baby sister. My world," her brother, Albert Corado said on Twitter.

Trader Joe's said the store

— known by customers as a neighborhood hangout with great customer service



Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, center, and Police Chief Michel Moore, right, brief the media at a news conference after a gunman held dozens of people hostage inside a Trader Joe's supermarket before surrendering to police in Los Angeles Saturday, July 21, 2018.

Associated Press

— would remain closed for the foreseeable future to give their employees time to process and grieve.

"Yesterday marks the saddest day in Trader Joe's history as we mourn the loss of one our own," com-

pany spokeswoman Kenya Friend-Daniel said in a statement. "Our thoughts are with her family, and our Crew Members and customers who experienced this terrifying and unimaginable ordeal." □

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G-20 calls for more dialogue on rising trade tensions

By LUIS ANDRES HENAO

Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina

(AP) — The world's top financial officials called Sunday for more dialogue on trade disputes that threaten global economic growth, with one warning that differences remain and tensions could escalate further.

The two-day meeting of finance ministers and central bankers from the Group of 20 nations came as the United States clashes with China and other nations over trade, with the nations imposing tariffs on billions of dollars of the other's goods.

A final communique said that although the global economy remains strong, growth is becoming "less synchronized" and risks over the short and medium terms have increased.

"These include rising financial vulnerabilities, heightened trade and geopolitical tensions, global imbalances, inequality and structurally weak growth, particularly in some advanced economies," the communique said. "We ... recognize the need to step up dialogue and actions to mitigate risks and enhance confidence."

On Friday, President Donald Trump renewed his threat to ultimately slap tariffs on a total of \$500 billion of imports from China — roughly equal to all the goods Beijing ships annually to the U.S. The White House has also itemized \$200 billion of additional Chinese imports that it said may be subject to tariffs.

The U.S. has also imposed tariffs of 25 percent on steel



Christine Lagarde, right, International Monetary Fund Managing Director and Argentina Treasury Minister Nicolas Dujovne arrives for a press conference during the G20 meeting of Finance Ministers and Central Bank governors in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Saturday, July 21, 2018.

Associated Press

and 10 percent on aluminum, including from Europe. China, the European Union, Canada, Mexico and Turkey have counter-punched with taxes on U.S. goods. EU tariffs on American products include Harley-Davidson motorcycles, cranberries, peanut butter, playing cards and whiskey. EU financial affairs commissioner Pierre Moscovici warned that such disputes are a threat.

"Protectionism, I want to insist on that, is good for no one," Moscovici told reporters. "Trade wars are not easy ... they create no winners, only casualties."

U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin disputed that protectionism is the issue.

"People are trying to make this about the United States and protectionism. That's not the case at all," he said at a news conference. "This

is about the United States wanting fair and free trade. ... We very much support the idea that trade is important for the global economy, but it's got to be on fair and reciprocal terms." Mnuchin said there had been no "substantive discussions" with China about trade during the meeting. Asked what it would take to re-start talks with the Asian giant, he said, "Anytime that they want to sit down and negotiate meaningful changes, I and our team are available." As the gathering wound up, Moscovici said differences of position remain despite talks.

"These meetings have been taking place in an international context which is very challenging. ... Trade tensions remain high and they threaten to escalate further," he said.

Christine Lagarde, manag-

ing director of the International Monetary Fund, has warned that a wave of tariffs could significantly harm the global economy, lowering growth by about 0.5 percent "in the worst-case scenario."

Mnuchin disagreed Sunday, saying that overall, the U.S. economy has not been harmed by the trade battles set off by Trump's get-tough policies. He acknowledged, however, that some individual sectors have been hurt and said U.S. officials are looking at ways to help them.

"We see some micro impacts where people, our counterparts, are targeting very, very specific items, in very specific communities," he said. "But from a macro standpoint, we do not yet see any significant impact on the economy."

So far, global markets have

remained generally calm despite the U.S.-China trade war and the other trade conflicts.

But analysts say they expect Trump will impose more tariffs on China and potentially other key U.S. trading partners. With those nations almost certain to retaliate, the result could be higher prices for Americans, diminished export sales and a weaker U.S. economy by next year, they say.

Moscovici said the G-20 meeting had not been tense.

He said that countries must remain "cool-headed and maintain a proper sense of perspective" and that the EU remains open to dialogue.

"That's why EU President Jean-Claude Juncker and EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmstrom will meet with Trump" in Washington next week, he said. "We hope this meeting will be productive and successful." Mnuchin said that the U.S. looks forward to those discussions.

The Group of 20 nations is composed of traditional economic powers such as the United States, Japan and Germany and emerging nations such as China, Brazil, India and Argentina. Officials in Buenos Aires also discussed issues including the future of work and infrastructure for development, the international tax system and financial inclusion.

It is the third of five meetings by finance ministers and central bankers scheduled in advance of a meeting of G-20 national leaders in Argentina to be held Nov. 30-Dec 1. Mnuchin said Trump plans to attend. □



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U.K. faces calls to liberalize Northern Ireland abortion laws

By GREGORY KATZ

LONDON (AP) — The British government faced intensifying pressure Sunday to take steps to legalize abortions in Northern Ireland, where terminating a pregnancy remains a criminal

care as their counterparts do across these islands," the letter said.

The open letter says that nearly 1,000 women and girls from Northern Ireland went to the British mainland for abortions last year and

tions have been allowed in England, Wales and Scotland for more than 50 years. Northern Ireland's power-sharing assembly is not operating at the moment, leaving the British government in control. British

Prime Minister Theresa May — busy with Brexit negotiations — has not moved to address abortion access in Northern Ireland.

Her minority government depends on the cooperation of the Democratic

Unionist Party in Northern Ireland, which is opposed to abortion.

The letter is unlikely to have any immediate impact as Britain's Parliament is about to begin its lengthy summer recess. □



In this file photo dated Thursday, 18, 2012, protesters opposed to abortion hold placards in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

Associated Press

offense even as tight abortion restrictions are being lifted in the Republic of Ireland.

More than 170 politicians from political parties in Britain, Ireland and Northern Ireland sent a letter to the Sunday Times that urged the government to repeal the 19th-century laws that make it a crime to have an abortion in Northern Ireland.

"This is the first and critical step to ending the treatment of British and Irish women living in Northern Ireland as second-class citizens, who do not enjoy the same access to health

others took abortion-inducing pills that are illegal in that part of the U.K.

Voters in the Republic of Ireland overwhelmingly approved a May referendum to repeal a constitutional amendment that barred most abortions. In its place, new laws spelling out the conditions for legal abortions are expected to be enacted.

The vote does not affect Northern Ireland, which is part of the United Kingdom. Abortions are prohibited there even in cases of rape and when the fetus is judged by experts to have a fatal abnormality. Abor-



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Mexican president-elect vows improvements to deter migration

By AMY GUTHRIE

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — President-elect Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador on Sunday released a seven-page letter he sent to U.S. President Donald Trump detailing how he plans to improve Mexico's economy and security when he takes office in December so that Mexicans do not feel the need to migrate.

"There will be many changes," he promised in the letter. "And in this new atmosphere of progress with well-being, I'm sure we can reach agreements to confront together the migration phenomenon as well as the problem of border insecurity."

Lopez Obrador also suggested the two countries draft a development plan backed by public funds and invite Central American countries to join, with the aim of making it "economically unnecessary" for Central Americans to migrate.

Marcelo Ebrard, who is slated to become Mexico's foreign minister, read the



Mexico's President-elect Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, right, and his future Foreign Minister, Marcelo Ebrard, speaks to the press outside his party's headquarters in Mexico City, Sunday, July 22, 2018.

letter aloud to reporters gathered at Lopez Obrador's political party headquarters. Ebrard said Trump had received the letter. The incoming Mexican president plans to cut government salaries, perks and jobs. Savings from those cuts, he says, will be directed toward social programs

and infrastructure. He also plans to reduce taxes for the private sector in the hopes of spurring investment and job creation.

Lopez Obrador said Sunday that some of his future

collaborators in government posts have offered to work for free during his six-year term. Several of his proposed Cabinet members are independently wealthy.

Associated Press

"It's an enormous privilege to participate in a process of transformation. There's no price on this," the president-elect said.

He said he will publish salaries of government employees, from high-ranking ministers to police officers. He also said his political party, Morena, will turn down the extra public financing it is supposed to receive next year because it won additional seats in Congress.

Lopez Obrador said Morena could collect up to 1.4 billion pesos (\$73.5 million) and more than double what it was allocated for 2018. Mexican electoral authorities assigned the party 650 million pesos for this year.

"That's too much in an atmosphere of austerity," Lopez Obrador said.

He said he doesn't want Morena to turn into an economic power with career politicians who forget that their mission is to serve the people. □

Suicide bombing in Kabul kills 14, Afghanistan's VP unharmed



Afghan first vice president, a former Uzbek warlord, Gen. Abdul Rashid Dostum, center, and members of his entourage disembark on arrival at Kabul International Airport in Kabul, Afghanistan, Sunday, July 22, 2018.

Associated Press

ple, including both civilians and military forces, were killed in the attack and 50 others wounded.

The Islamic States group's local affiliate claimed responsibility for the attack on its Amaaq News Agency website, claiming it had killed and wounded over 115 people. In a statement from the presidential palace, Afghan President Ashraf Ghani strongly condemned the attack.

Dostum had been undergoing medical treatment in Turkey, and is now well and ready to resume work, said presidential spokesman Haroon Chakhansuri. Dostum left Afghanistan in 2017 after the attorney-general's office launched an investigation into allegations that his followers had tortured and sexually abused a formerly turned political rival. He has since reportedly been barred by the government from returning to Afghanistan. □

By RAHIM FAIEZ

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)

— A suicide bomber carried out an attack near the Kabul airport Sunday, killing 14 people and narrowly missing Afghanistan's vice president, who was returning home after living in Turkey for over a year, security officials said.

The blast occurred near Kabul International Airport shortly after the convoy of the controversial vice president had just left the airport, Interior Ministry spokesman Najib Danish said. Gen. Abdul Rashid Dostum, a former Uzbek warlord, and his entourage were unharmed, said Danish. Danish said that 14 peo-

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Gays on strike in Israel over exclusion from surrogacy law

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) —

Tens of thousands of Israeli LGBT advocates and their supporters went on strike across the country Sunday, protesting the exclusion of gay men from a recently passed surrogacy law.

The community is outraged that after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu pledged to pass legislation supporting surrogacy for gay fathers, he then voted against it, apparently under pressure from his ultra-Orthodox Jewish coalition partners. Protesters marched in Tel Aviv and other Israeli cities on Sunday, waving rainbow flags and briefly blocking a major highway.

Tel Aviv's central Rabin Square was packed with tens of thousands of people for the main demonstration Sunday night. "Although Israel has a very liberal image concerning gays it's not the case when you look



LGBT community members block a highway during a protest against a surrogate bill in Tel Aviv, Israel, Sunday, July 22, 2018.

Associated Press

at the Israeli law," said former Israeli lawmaker Nitzan Horowitz at the protest, who called for law amendments to ensure equal treatment

for the LGBT community. Hundreds protested near Netanyahu's residence in Jerusalem.

Eyal Lurie Pardes, a pro-

tester draped in a rainbow flag, chanted: "We will not remain silent!"

"Look me in the eyes and tell me I don't deserve to

be a father!" he said. Footage aired on Israeli TV later showed police pushing him into a police car. Israeli police said two people were detained and then released.

The protest has grown into a general call for equality, following other recent controversial legislation that appeared to target Israeli liberalism. The protest has generated widespread support and hundreds of employers said they would allow employees to observe the strike without penalty. Israel has emerged as one of the world's most gay-friendly travel destinations in recent years, in sharp contrast to the rest of the Middle East where gays are persecuted and even killed. In Israel, homosexuals serve openly in Israel's military and parliament, and many popular artists and entertainers are homosexual. □



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Africa sees 1st carbon-neutral brewery amid climate concerns

By NEIL SHAW

Associated Press

DARLING, South Africa (AP)

— A South African brewery is said to be the first in Africa to go carbon-neutral as more businesses across the continent adjust to climate change, and as consumers become more careful about the products they buy.

Darling Brewery, in a village near Cape Town, decreased its carbon footprint by using water and energy more efficiently — then brought it to zero in April by purchasing carbon credits at a reforestation project in Zimbabwe.

The brewery's overhaul comes as South Africa's Cape region emerges from an extreme drought that saw the city of Cape Town, population 4 million, rationing water and warning of a "Day Zero" when taps would run dry.

The crisis has eased amid water conservation efforts.

"I don't think a lot of people understand what carbon-neutral means or what impact all the businesses around us are having on the environment," said the brewery's owner, Kevin Wood.

"The damage being done by climate change has a lot to do with our carbon footprint.

Just look at the extreme weather here in the West-



In this June 5, 2018, photo, bottles of freshly bottled beer stand in the Darling Brewery in Darling, South Africa.

Associated Press

ern Cape."

Greenhouse gas emissions have damaging environmental impacts such as global warming, acid rain and ozone layer damage, according to the sustainability consultant who conducted a greenhouse gas audit on the brewery, Andre Harms.

Darling Brewery was already known for raising en-

vironmental issues via the labels on the 17 beers it produces, educating drinkers about Africa's threatened wildlife.

Now the labels tell drinkers about the brewery's carbon-neutral status.

"They'll start connecting the dots and change their consumption habits to more environmentally friendly products," Wood said.

Darling Brewery opened in 2010 as the craft beer sector exploded in South Africa. When the brewery opened there were 30 others and today there are around 215, according to beer journalist Lucy Corne. She said craft brewery consumers are more likely to be aware of their carbon footprint than regular beer drinkers, as craft beer is a niche product that only

South Africa's middle class and above can afford.

"I think what Darling Brewery has done is really great for the industry,"

Corne said, adding that the shift to carbon-neutral could get other breweries thinking about sustainability measures. "They're leading the way."

Globally there are only a handful of carbon-neutral breweries, experts say.

Sustainability consultant Franz Rentel confirmed that Darling Brewery is the first carbon-neutral one in Africa. He said he thinks more companies will follow its example.

South Africa will introduce a carbon credit tax by January, which will affect large emitters and is expected to make products from carbon-neutral companies "the cheaper option," Ren-

tel said. As more countries put such taxes into place, large breweries could move toward carbon neutrality as well. Darling Brewery's brew master, Rene du Toit, said going carbon-neutral is not just about doing the right thing.

"A lot of the measures you put in place to reduce your carbon footprint make economic sense in the long run: You're paying less for your water, you're paying less for your energy, you're putting out less solid waste." Sitting at one of Cape Town's trendy bars, beer lover Nicole McCready said choosing to drink a carbon-neutral Darling Brewery beer is about supporting a progressive South African initiative. "We'll see far more of (that) globally, I hope," she said. □

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LOCAL



Continuous investment in tourism is very essential A.T.A. projects positive results for Tourism for 2018



ORANJESTAD — Recently Aruba Tourism Authority (A.T.A) published the results for the month of June and also the results for the first half of 2018. Here you can see that for the first half the total visitors increased 2.6% and the total revenue registered by AHATA as Revenue per room (RevPar) also increased 12.4%. Notable is that 50% of the inventory of Caribbean hotels affected by hurricanes in 2017, are now available in the Caribbean market. However projections indicate that the remaining half of 2018 will have positive results, due to the continuous investments and proactive management of A.T.A.

Aruba is projected to continue to grow even with the challenges in the Caribbean

Measurement of the quality of the visitor is one indicator but not the only one applicable. It is expected continuous positive results for 2018 with an increase in the quantity of 'stay over' visitors for Aruba.

There is also a projection of a high season which will be very strong, after a very good high season for 2018. The increase in quantity will be hand in hand with the increase in revenue for Aruba for 2018.

This had a growth of 6.5% in 2018 (Tourism receipts reg-

istered by the Central Bank of Aruba).

Of course things can change depending the aspects in line with the hurricane season for 2018. Separate from the increase in total visitors, A.T.A. noticed a positive increase in the quality of the visitor we had and it was noticeable that the quality increased stronger than the quantity of the tourist, this conforms to their vision and management stipulated. This is something that needs to be kept and monitored, seeing that other islands in the Caribbean are introducing new products and attractive prices. This means that the challenge can be continuous and it urges to continue investing in Aruba's hotels and touristic product.

A.T.A. projects to close 2018 with an increase of 5.4% from North America, where USA increases with 5.5% and Canada with 3.3%. This together with projections in the area of aviation which will continue increasing in the American market for the rest of the year confirm what was registered from the Annual Conference for Aruba for the North American market ATCA effected in May, it is expected that strong results from USA, which increases with 7.9% in June 2018, will continue to contribute greatly in the results for Aruba for 2018.

Until the first half of 2018, the U.S. represented a total of 71% of the visitors so such market is very important and reflects what can be expected for the rest of the year. Partners emphasized that extra focus needs to be put into launching extra incentives in order to secure more groups MICE (meetings, incentives, conferencing, exhibitions) to Aruba in 2020. ATA will be launching these starting August and also will continue focusing on stimulating those who are planning in vacationing to do this more upfront. Until now A.T.A is looking forward to close 2018 with an increase from Latin America_ excluding Venezuela_ and with an steady development for Europe in which the decrease of visitors from England is being compensated for with other markets. All of this goes hand-in-hand with the projection in the area of aviation for the rest of this year and the first period of 2019.

50% of hotel room inventory hit by hurricane is back

A.T.A. continuously organizes strategic sessions to maintain the agility and rapidness neccesary in order to stay on top of the latest developments in the touristic industry. During meetings presented recently by A.T.A. (North America Marketing Retreat) in the U.S. on June 25th and 26th and also at 'LATAM 2019 Plan' presented in Aruba on July 13th, discussions regarding 2018 and 2019 were led. All meetings were represented by tourism partners. Here they also elaborated on the fact that 50% of the hotel inventory of the islands in the Caribbean affected by different hurricanes in 2017 are back and other Caribbean destinations are still working for all that's pend-

ing to be "back on board" soon. They project that 80% of them wil be back by mid-2019. The challenge for Aruba will be to continue capitalizing from this opportunity that this brings, but also to continue securing business continuity among new hotel products that will continue to be added to the Caribbean and the competitive rates. This will require an additional push and perhaps additional incentives also, making it attractive for hotels to continue investing in their existing product in this competitive region.

Continuous investment is essential

Through continuous studies A.T.A. tries to focus on Aruba's physical product and human capital and is currently finishing the study of 'Carrying Capacity' and 'Niche Roadmap'. A.T.A .

also included a session in its report with statistics for the month of June and the first half of 2018, with results of 2000 surveys done in our community in the month of March 2018. The 'Resident Sentiment Survey' features what our youth and adults think about our touristic developments and what they want to see change in the area of economy, culture and infrastructure. These studies together with the plan for touristic development, Cu mira pa futuro,' which was launched last year, are key players for the development of our island on the touristic level. Investment and management need to take consideration with the visitor but also with the entire community at the same time. These investments are, at the same time, very important in order to maintain the competitive position of Aruba's tourism. □



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First home to start construction at Paseo de Playa in Tierra del Sol Resort & Golf

NOORD — The Tierra del Sol management team with its Exclusive Agent, Sotheby's International Realty, has commenced a new neighborhood development project at Tierra del Sol Resort & Golf; Paseo de Playa (Passage to the Beach). It is situated on the west side of Tierra del Sol, with spectacular views of the golf course, pristine Beach and the North side of Aruba and is only a short walking distance to Arashi. Paseo de Playa is a planned land

sale development project that will be comprised of variable lot sizes with a range of 400 m² - 900 m².

This unique development project is comprised of a mix of contemporary estate sized homes and moderate sized homes.

Last week, the Tierra del Sol management team, together with the new owners of a lot at Paseo de Playa; Mr. Dragan Ljubinkovic and Mrs. Bojana Ljubinkovic,

were happy to announce the start of the commencement of the first home at Paseo de Playa. The Tierra del Sol management team is looking forward to welcoming more new homeowners to Paseo de Playa and anticipate the start of approximately ten new homes this year.

As requested this morning I have asked Dragan to say something as why he chose Paseo de Playa to build his home. His response was

the following, "Our love for the island and its people began in 2009 and now we are grateful to also call it our home. Paseo de Playa has all the offerings we were looking for in building our dream home; short walking distance to the powder soft white sands of Arashi beach, breathtaking views of the island, the 600 acre golf course of Tierra del Sol and most im-

portantly being surrounded by a community and management team that cares for one another. We look forward to beginning our journey in this new development, welcoming future neighbors and being part of this one happy island!" Pictured are Mr. and Mrs. Ljubinkovic, Tierra del Sol GM, Cisco Quant and Moises Uruena from Sotheby's International Realty. □



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Aruba Tourism Authority honoring loyal visitors

EAGLE BEACH — Recently Ms. Emely Ridderstaat from Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure in honoring Mr. Daniel & Mrs. Helen Brasure, as "Goodwill Ambassadors". Daniel and Helen are from Delaware, USA and have been calling Aruba their home away

from home for 20 consecutive years. They are staying at Bucuti & Tara and love to come to the island to relax. Present at the honoring was the GM Mr. Ewald Biemans. □

The Brown's and The Hatfield's Honored at Holiday

Inn Beach Resort

PALM BEACH — Mr. Teri & Mrs. Timnie Brown were honored as "Goodwill Ambassador" by the Aruba Tourism Authority for visiting our island for 21 consecutive years. Also Mr. Harold & Mrs. Donna Hatfield were

honored as "Distinguished Visitor" due to the fact that they have been coming to Aruba for 10 consecutive years.

The honorary titles are presented in the name of Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation for visiting

Aruba all these consecutive years. Emely Ridderstaat from the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Kevin Anderson and Martin Giraldo from the Holiday Inn were also present on this honoring. □



Aruban born and bred Steve Francees has a passion for photography. Being a local photographer he knows the hidden gems of this island and captures them in an amazing way. As a Family and Landscape photographer Steve is ready to create your next 'vacation memories', morning and/or sunset shots. T: (297) 738-0777, M: stevefrancees@hotmail.com, www.instagram.com/stevefrancees and www.stevefrancees.com



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Winnie and Skip are celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary but looks like they are still 25 years old. They have 3 children, 6 Grandchildren and 5 Great grandchildren. Winnie and Skip have been coming to Aruba for more than 30 years and are our best Aruba's ambassadors. They are always in good mood and ready to help wherever they go. We all love them and wish them 60 more years of marriage. The picture is from our photo shoot from last week and look how cure they look.

Arashi Beach is just phenomenal



You can't leave Aruba without take a swim at this beach. You can't take a bad picture at Arashi it's just too amazing. Morning shots are spectacular and when the sun hits the beach you will see tons of nature colors changing every 10 minutes before your eyes. It just keep brighten up before your eyes and you will just keep clicking. You can take a taxi and also the public transportation to the last stop to the north and you are at Arashi Beach. Good for snorkeling too!

Andicuri Beach



There is something special about this place. I like the color of the water in combination with the white sand and the surrounded by rocky coastline. Only with a UTV or Jeep you can reach this beach or you can hike starting from the Natural Bridge and go east on the coastline. Will take around 25 minutes to reach this beauty and to take this shot you must climb on the rock further into the sea. Please be very careful doing this.

Casibari Rock Formation



This park is located in the area of Paradera and is very easy to drive to. Basically this park is known for the super big rock formation but also you can see authentic Aruban flora and fauna. There is a path in the park where you can follow it and see the amazing tropical nature around the big rock formation. There are sitting areas where you can take a break and count the many lizards that will come to say welcome to the park.

Another Treasure of Aruba's Beaches: Sea Glass!



NOORD - It is hard to imagine this happening today, but years ago people dumped all kinds of refuse straight into the ocean, including old cars, and their household garbage, which of course included lots of glass. Over the next 30 years the pounding waves cleaned the beach, by breaking down everything but glass and pottery. The pounding waves washed the trash up and down, back and forth. Tons of polished, broken glass pieces were created by the pounding surf. These smoothed, colored glass particles then settled along the sea shore in millions, and that is why you can find these beautiful and colorful pieces on the north shore beaches of Aruba.

Especially on the strip on white sand between the famous Natural Bridge" and the huge red anchor close to "Graafstad" beach you will be able to find your own pieces of sea glass. The sea glass that was created is the product of a very long and interesting process. It can take anywhere from 10 to 30 years to make sea glass.

The name for any piece of glass that finds its way to the ocean and tumbles around in the water long enough is "Sea glass. The colorful pieces of glass are being used for decoration, handcrafts and jewelry!

Once glass makes its way into the ocean, the glass is

broken up into shards and is tumbled around in the water, where sand and other rocks act like sandpaper to smooth out its rough edges. Sometimes as the sea glass is passed through fire, it becomes fire glass, the rarest of sea glass with certain inclusions, just like precious gems.

For years, the water beat against the different kinds of trash being dumped. Glass, household appliances and even motor parts were discarded on the beach. The waves and weather conditions wore down the overwhelming amount of garbage in the water, creating millions of beautiful smooth rocks.

It's hard to believe the short-sighted mistakes we were making that could have potentially ruined these beautiful beaches. But thanks to natural processes, the ocean transformed the trash into the sea glass.

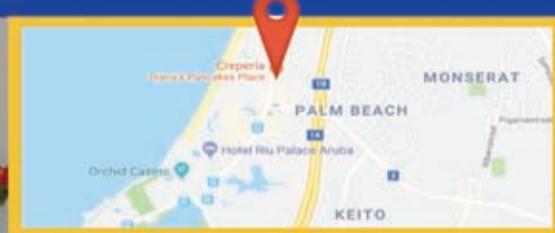
Each colored gem on the beach has its own story. The ruby red glass stones are typically from old car tail-lights.

Then, the sapphire rocks are the remnants of broken apothecary bottles. The most common and the easiest to find are the brown (Amstel & Polar beer), green (Heineken & Balashi beer) and clear glass which are the soft much loved "soft drink" bottles.

If you like to see the sea glass for yourself, and be



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in awe of the power of nature, rent a car or jeep and go explore our deserted beaches on the north side of the island. Make it a fun family day!

Even if we didn't mean to pollute the Beaches how we did, it is inspiring to see just how the earth can correct our mistakes.

Funny, how trash can change into treasures!

Everybody knows that you are not allowed to take local shells home, but the people working at the airport have no problem you taking sea glass home. A few of those pieces make great souvenirs. You can place them in a wine glass or large bottle for decoration and every time you look at it a smile will light up your face thinking back of your unforgettable Aruba vacation! □



SPORTS



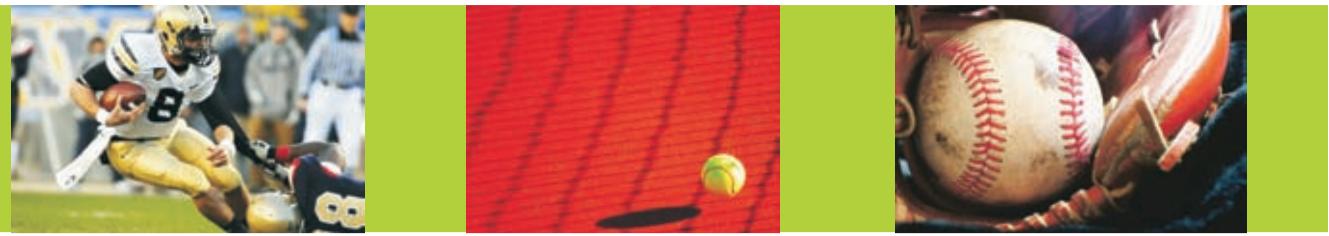
Kevin Harvick smiles as he holds up a large lobster in Victory Lane after winning the NASCAR Cup Series auto race Sunday, July 22, 2018, at New Hampshire Motor Speedway in Loudon, N.H.

Associated Press

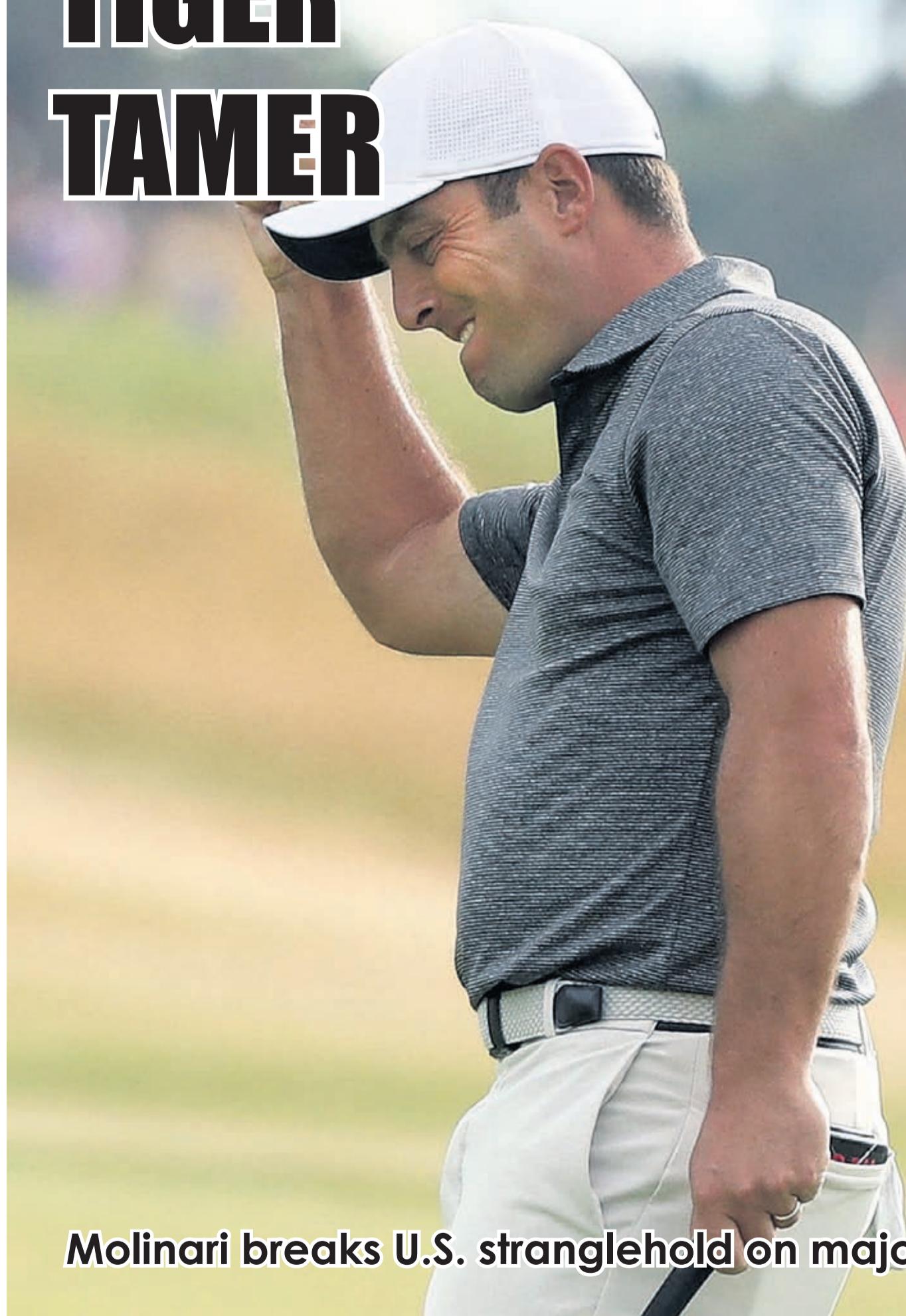
Harvick uses bump-and-run on Busch to win at New Hampshire

LOUDON, N.H. (AP)—Kevin Harvick used a bump-and-run on Kyle Busch with seven laps left to win a thrilling battle of two of NASCAR's dominant drivers Sunday at New Hampshire Motor Speedway. Harvick aimed his Ford bumper at the right side of Busch's Toyota and nudged the leader out of the way for the move of the race in another stellar showing for the leader of the Big Three. "I felt like it was my best opportunity to do what I had to do to win," Harvick said. "I didn't want to wreck him. But I didn't want to waste a bunch of time behind him." Added Busch: "How you race is you get raced." Harvick raced to his sixth victory of the season and went 1-2 in some order with Busch for the ninth time this year. Busch has five wins and Martin Truex Jr., fourth Sunday, has four. The Big Three were threatened in a race delayed by rain for more than three hours by Aric Almirola, who replaced Danica Patrick in the No. 10 Ford, for a portion of the race.

Continued on Page 21



TIGER TAMER



Molinari breaks U.S. stranglehold on majors

Francesco Molinari of Italy celebrates after putting a birdie on the 18th green after the final round for the 147th British Open Golf championships in Carnoustie, Scotland, Sunday, July 22, 2018.

Associated Press
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Tokyo 2020 official mascots unveiled at ceremony

TOKYO (AP) — The official mascots for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics and Paralympics were unveiled at a ceremony in downtown Tokyo on Sunday.

The mascot for the Olympics is named Miraitowa while the Paralympic mascot will be known as Someity.

Miraitowa is a combination of the Japanese words for future and eternity while Someity comes from a popular cherry blossom variety "Someiyoshino" and echoes the English phrase "so mighty."

The two mascot designs were selected by elementary schoolchildren across Japan.

"These mascots are your

friends," Tokyo 2020 organizing committee president Yoshiro Mori said at the ceremony. "You have helped to pick them and across the country, I believe, 5 million children helped to pick this."

And the name is also something we have picked together. So this Olympics belongs to everyone."

The selection process involving schoolchildren was introduced to get students enthusiastic about the games while also ensuring transparency.

Organizers say the pair of futuristic characters combine tradition and innovation. The Tokyo Olympics are scheduled for July 24 to Aug. 9, 2020.



Tokyo 2020 Olympic mascot "Miraitowa", left, and Paralympic mascot "Someity", right, attend their debut event in Tokyo Sunday, July 22, 2018.

Associated Press

"I think a very worthy name for Tokyo, but for Japan as well as the Olympics and Paralympics," said Tokyo governor Yuriko Koike. □



Matt Atkins, right, prepares to putt as caddie Christopher Schwertfeger holds an umbrella over him while finishing up the 9th hole, Sunday, July 22, 2018, in Nicholasville, Ky., during the final round of the PGA Tour Barbasol Championships at Keene Trace Golf Club.

Associated Press

Weather suspends fourth round of Barbasol Championship

By GARY B. GRAVES
AP Sports Writer

NICHOLASVILLE, Ky. (AP) — A thunderstorm suspended the fourth round of the PGA Tour's Barbasol Championship until Monday morning. Sunday's third stoppage of play at Champions Trace at Keene Trace Golf Club came with the four leaders — Hunter Mahan, Robert Streb, Tom Lovelady and Troy Merritt at 18-under par — and four other contenders waiting to begin the round. The tournament will resume at 7:30 a.m. on

Monday. Lightning caused one delay, and play was stopped earlier in the afternoon to clear water that accumulated on the course following a morning of steady and sometimes-heavy rain. The second round was completed Saturday morning after being suspended by thunderstorms late Friday afternoon. Tournament director Steve Carman said the goal was to complete play Sunday but that "Mother Nature didn't give us a very good shake." □

Molinari survives wild day to win British Open

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

CARNOUSTIE, Scotland

(AP) — Francesco Molinari played a steady hand amid the cheers for Tiger Woods and another crazy ending at Carnoustie to win the British Open and become Italy's first major champion.

Woods brought pandemonium by charging into the lead on Sunday at a major for the first time in nine years, only to lose it with one bad hole. Jordan Spieth cost himself by failing to make a single birdie.

Seven players had a share of the lead at some point. Six were still tied on the back nine.

Through all that, Molinari never flinched.

He closed with a 2-under 69, playing the final 37 holes on the toughest links in golf without a bogey. The clincher was a bold drive on the 18th hole that flirted with edge of a pot bunker, a wedge to 5 feet and a birdie putt that gave him a lead no one in the last two groups was able to erase. Molinari raised his fist and



Francesco Molinari of Italy kisses the trophy after winning the British Open Golf Championship in Carnoustie, Scotland, Sunday July 22, 2018.

Associated Press

shook it lightly before slamming it for emphasis.

"Just disbelief, to be honest," the 35-year-old said with the gleaming claret jug in front of him. "To go the weekend bogey-free, it's unthinkable. Playing with Tiger was another challenge. But I felt really good

this morning. I felt I was ready for the challenge."

He finished at 8-under 276, the lowest score in eight Opens at Carnoustie, the course where Jean Van de Velde threw away the British Open with a triple bogey on the last hole in 1999, where Padraig Harrington

twice hit into Barry Burn on the last hole to make double bogey and still won.

Earlier in the day, Woods had every reason to believe he would cap a most amazing comeback.

He had a one-shot lead until a double bogey on the 11th hole, a bogey on the next. He and Molinari were together three weeks ago when Woods handed him the trophy at his Quicken Loans National.

"Francesco played really solidly today," Woods said. "He was working the ball around the greens, and that was cool to see."

With the wind gusting to 20 mph, the strongest it had been all week, Molinari was the only player from the last four groups to break par. Woods closed with a 71 to tie for sixth, three shots behind. It was the first time since 2007 that he trailed going into the final round of a major, had the lead and failed to win.

The victory adds to Molinari's best stretch of golf. Now at a career-best No. 6 in the world, he has won three times and been runner-up twice in the past two months.

No one in the final two groups was able to threaten Molinari.

Kevin Chappell (73) missed a 10-foot birdie putt on the 16th that would have tied

him for the lead, and then misfired into a gorse bush on the 17th to take double bogey. Xander Schauffele, the last one to keep alive the American streak of five straight majors, was one shot behind until he sent a long iron well to the right of the 17th hole and failed to convert a 15-foot par putt to fall two shots behind.

Schauffele had to hole out a wedge on the final hole to force a playoff, and the ball checked up well short. Molinari was on the putting green, not so much to get ready for a playoff, but he couldn't bear to watch.

"It's been a tough fight," Molinari said modestly in congratulating the four guys who finished second. "But there can only be one winner. This time, it's me."

Schauffele had to settle for second place with Rory McIlroy (70), Justin Rose (69) and Kevin Kisner (74), all of whom had plenty of reason to hope on a warm, windy afternoon that put plenty of bite back into Carnoustie.

All of them made mistakes, big and small.

The biggest blunder belonged to Woods, his red shirt blazing against the yellow grass of dry Scottish summer. The roars for his two birdies could be heard from all corners of Carnoustie. It felt like old times, as everyone Woods was chasing began to collapse. Kisner, in a three-way tie for the lead, took double bogey on No. 2. Spieth hit into a gorse bush and made double bogey on the par-5 sixth. Schauffele made double bogey on the next hole, leaving one in the wispy grass, another over the green.

Woods was at 7 under, in control of his game and hitting shots that only he can. From a pot bunker on No. 10, he took a bold and vicious swing to get it over the lip, over the burn and to the front edge of the green. And then it all went wrong. He pulled his shot from the rough on No. 11 into the gallery, fluffed a wedge short of the green, ran it by 8 feet and missed the putt for double bogey. □

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NEW HAMPSHIRE

Continued from Page 18

He threatened to crash the party and had his second career Cup victory in sight. He led for more than 40 laps but was derailed by a poor pit stop and spun his tires on a restart that cost him. "You think I'd be happy," he said.

Not in this race.

Almirola was the latest also-ran to realize drivers have to be perfect to catch either of the Big Three.

Harvick, who won his 43rd career race, was in New Hampshire.

Harvick reeled off three straight victories at Atlanta, Las Vegas and Phoenix and went back-to-back in May at Dover and Kansas. It had been seven races since he reached victory lane.

He did what he had to do again in the No. 4 Ford to celebrate there again for Stewart-Haas Racing.

Here are some items of note from a wet day in New Hampshire.

ONE AND DONE

New Hampshire hosted its only Cup weekend of the season because track owner Speedway Motorsports Inc. transferred the fall playoff race to Las Vegas Motor Speedway. New Hampshire ran its first Cup race in 1993 and got a second date in 1997.

The track will fill the open date in September with the NASCAR Modified Tour and the winner of the marquee Musket 250 race will claim a share of the \$181,100 purse. New Hampshire also plans to hold a country music festival in 2019.

Many drivers feel the sport would be helped if it stopped racing twice a season at some tracks. Track general manager Dave McGrath said there was a modest ticket bump from Sunday's race compared to last July. He did not reveal attendance numbers.

"There's no significant drop year over year. We're holding our own," McGrath said. "I wish that everybody that was here in September was here in July but I think that's going to take a few years for that to truly take hold. The good news is, that level, steady (crowd) is a big win in my book. That clearly shows we're keeping those that we had and it's our job now to find that next group to come and be part of the weekend."

WORKING FOR THE WEEKEND

Loverboy played the pre-race concert in the rain.

Loverboy's song "Heaven in Your Eyes" was on the "Top Gun" soundtrack in 1986 and Tom Cruise recently



Kevin Harvick celebrates in Victory Lane after winning a NASCAR Cup Series auto race Sunday, July 22, 2018, at New Hampshire Motor Speedway in Loudon, N.H.

Associated Press

started filming the sequel "Top Gun: Maverick."

That had 80s movie soundtrack fans lovin' every minute of wondering if Loverboy also would return for the flick.

Lead singer Mike Reno said he recorded a song he hoped would be used in the movie.

"We recorded it and I sent it out. I don't know if they're going to take it," Reno said. "I'm hoping they pick some nice retro music, rather than go with the new stuff.

When you listen to the song we recorded for the new 'Top Gun,' you can almost hear the jets flying by."

SAFETY FIRST

New England Patriots safety Patrick Chung had been scheduled to drive the pace car for the race.

"I think they need to put me in a real car," Chung said, laughing. Chung declined to discuss the NFL's national anthem debate that was reignited this week. Miami Dolphins owner Stephen Ross said he hadn't decid-

ed whether to actually discipline players who protest during the national anthem when he formally told the team that the demonstrations could be punishable. "Can't worry about things you can't control. It is what it is," Chung said.

Chung said he was ready for the Patriots to start training camp and put the Super Bowl loss to the Philadelphia Eagles behind them.

"That game sucked," he said. □

69-year-old John Force races to 149th NHRA Funny Car win

MORRISON, Colo. (AP) — John Force raced to his first victory of the season and record-extending 149th career Funny Car win Saturday in the Dodge Mile-High NHRA Nationals.

The 69-year-old Force ended a frustrating crash-filled drought to win for the eighth time at Bandimere Speedway, edging Ron Capps in the final with a 4.075-second run at 315.42 mph.

"We're starting to put it back together," Force said. "I found myself with all the crashes and everything that happened probably at the lowest point in my career. It has been worse than when I crashed in 2007. I have been fighting to get back. I had four crashes and after my last one."

Force drove the John Force Racing Camaro past Matt



In this photo provided by the NHRA, John Force drives to the Funny Car victory at the annual Dodge Mile-High NHRA Nationals at Bandimere Speedway in Denver, Sunday, July 22, 2018.

Associated Press

Hagan in the first round, Cruz Pedregon in the quar-

terfinals and daughter Courtney Force in the semi-

finals en route to his first victory since the Gatornation-

als in March 2017.

"All great racers. I love them all," Force said. "The fire was in me. I'm fighting. I got tired of hearing me snivel to myself. My wife didn't even want to talk to me. She said, 'I know you more than that. I know what you're going through.' I don't know why I won this race. Maybe God is just showing me."

Leah Pritchett won in Top Fuel for her second victory of the season and seventh overall. She beat Doug Kalitta in the final with a 3.831 at 316.45.

Greg Anderson topped the Pro Stock field for his first win of the year and 91st overall, and Hector Arana Jr. won in Pro Stock Motorcycle. Anderson edged Jason Line with a 6.943 at 196.53, and Arana topped Jerry Savoie with a 7.170 at 185.89. □

Familia gets win as A's beat Giants 6-5 in 10 innings

By MICHAEL WAGAMAN

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) —

Jeurys Familia had a difficult time leaving New York, having spent his entire major league career with the Mets.

A win in his Oakland debut made the transition a little easier.

Familia pitched two scoreless innings, Marcus Semien scored from second base on Matt Chapman's infield chopper in the 10th, and the Athletics beat the San Francisco Giants 6-5 on Sunday.

"I felt good," Familia said through a translator. "I obviously wasn't used the last couple days but I felt really comfortable about coming in and doing the job today."

Familia was acquired Saturday in a trade for two minor leaguers and \$1 million in international signing bonus pool allotment. The reliever arrived in Oakland about an hour before the game after catching a 7 a.m. flight.

Familia (5-4) allowed a leadoff single to Austin Slater in the ninth, and then retired his next five batters. Alen Hanson bounced into an inning-ending double play in the ninth.

"Unbelievable," A's starter Sean Manaea said. "I remember watching him in the World Series a couple years ago and then watching him on TV today, his stuff's nasty."

I'm super excited to have him."

An All-Star in 2016, Familia was 4-4 with a 2.88 ERA and 17 saves in 21 chances with the Mets.

The 28-year-old right-hander has struck out 44 and walked 14 in 41 appearances covering 42 2/3 innings with New York and Oakland this season.

Leaving the Mets was hard for Familia, but not unexpected.

"I spent 11 years there, six years in the big leagues," Familia said.

"It was really tough to say goodbye to some of those guys. I was prepared mentally. It was tough but I also knew that it was coming." Familia had 123 saves with the Mets.

In Oakland, he will split closing duties with All-Star Blake Treinen.

Treinen was unavailable Sunday after throwing 40 pitches on Saturday.

"What a great first look," A's manager Bob Melvin said.

"When you come to a new team first impressions are important and when you pitch the way he did, it makes you feel like part of the team very quickly."

Khris Davis and Matt Olson each homered twice to help the A's win the inaugural Bay Bridge series trophy before a third consecutive sellout crowd at the Coliseum.

Semien drew a leadoff walk against Ty Blach (6-6)



Oakland Athletics pitcher Jeurys Familia works against the San Francisco Giants in the ninth inning of a baseball game Sunday, July 22, 2018, in Oakland, Calif.

Associated Press

Francisco reliever Yusmeiro Petit in the eighth.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Giants: 2B Joe Panik (groin) ran before the game.

Athletics: All-Star 2B Jed Lowrie was given the day off after getting hit by a pitch and fouling a ball off his body near the same area Saturday.

... OF Chad Pinder is nursing a sore wrist and thumb after stumbling over the leg of Giants infielder Hanson and falling hard to the turf a day earlier. □

caused me to miss it. I think it did end up hitting my foot."

Andrew McCutchen homered for San Francisco. Austin Slater collected three hits, Pablo Sandoval had a pinch-hit, two-run single and Nick Hundley added two hits and scored twice. San Francisco didn't have a baserunner until the fifth inning and trailed 4-1 before scoring three in the seventh and one in the eighth.

McCutchen homered on a 3-2 pitch from former San



New York Mets starting pitcher Noah Syndergaard delivers against the New York Yankees during the first inning of a baseball game Friday, July 20, 2018, in New York.

Associated Press

Syndergaard to DL again with hand, foot and mouth disease

By MIKE FITZPATRICK

AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — In the latest bizarre medical development for the baffling New York Mets, ace pitcher Noah Syndergaard is headed back to the 10-day disabled list after contracting hand, foot and mouth disease. The team believes it's likely Syndergaard caught the contagious virus when he made an appearance at a baseball camp for kids

during the All-Star break last week.

Mets manager Mickey Callaway says that probably explains why Syndergaard weakened and his velocity decreased during Friday night's victory at Yankee Stadium.

Syndergaard just returned from the DL on July 13 after sitting out more than six weeks with a strained ligament in his right index finger. □

Callaway and assistant general manager John Ricco say it's possible the right-hander will miss only one turn in the rotation this time while allowing the virus to run its course.

The news comes two days after a startling health revelation from slugger Yoenis Cespedes, who said he might need surgery on both heels that would require an eight-to-10-month recovery. □

Thomas keeps lead before Tour's decisive week in Pyrenees

By JOSEPH WILSON

Associated Press

CARCASSONNE, France

(AP) — With the Pyrenees looming, Geraint Thomas had his last calm ride wearing the yellow jersey at the Tour de France on Sunday. The Welshman's rivals for cycling's most prestigious prize, which include teammate Chris Froome in second place, mostly held back over the hilly Stage 15 with a decisive final week of racing ahead.

Thomas kept the overall lead for a fourth consecutive day before the race pauses for riders to rest on Monday.

That break will precede a stretch in the Pyrenees that will feature three mountain stages before an individual time trial on the Tour's penultimate day.

"There are three big, big days left, and then the time trial, so (I) just take each day as it comes and we will see what happens," Thomas said.

Thomas maintained his advantage of 1 minute, 39 seconds over defending champion Froome. Tom Dumoulin, the world time trial champion, remained third at 1:50 back. Primoz Roglic was fourth at 2:38 behind and Romain Bardet 3:21 behind in fifth.



Denmark's Magnus Cort Nielsen celebrates as he crosses the finish line ahead of Spain's Jon Izaguirre Insausti, second right, and Netherlands' Bauke Mollema, right, to win the fifteenth stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 181.5 kilometers (112.8 miles) with start in Millau and finish in Carcassonne, France, Sunday July 22, 2018.

With Froome seeking a fifth Tour title, Team Sky has yet to declare its current top option for the title since Thomas won back-to-back summit finishes in the Alps. So far, Thomas and Froome have not attacked each other, but that uneasy truce could be put to the test as the race enters its decisive phase. Thomas, while not saying he will race against Froome, has made it clear that he is not going to relinquish his

shot of winning a first Grand Tour.

"I think I would have to have a bad day," Thomas said. "It's a massive honor just to be wearing (the yellow jersey), but like I have said from the very start, who knows what lies just around the corner?"

Thomas, Froome, and the rest of the overall contenders slowly rolled across the finish line at Carcassonne and its medieval city walls 13 minutes after stage win-

Associated Press

ner Magnus Cort Nielsen of Denmark.

Cort Nielsen claimed his first career win at the Tour after staying ahead of Jon Izaguirre and Bauke Mollema in a sprint over the final 200 meters. He finished the hilly 181.5-kilometer (112.7-mile) leg from Millau that ended in a long descent to Carcassonne in 4 hours, 25 minutes.

"I always kept a little back so I was able to respond if they attack," said the

25-year-old Cort Nielsen, who gave Astana back-to-back wins the day after teammate Omar Fraile claimed Stage 14.

The only sustained attack against Thomas came from Daniel Martin, who is 10th at almost seven minutes behind. He tried a getaway while going up the Pic de Nore climb at 40 kilometers from the finish but was reeled in on the way down. There was also a half-hearted and short-lived attempt by Bardet to slip away on a downhill. "We were always in control," Thomas said. "We were always in the right place, and it's a good day to get done."

Thomas and Froome lost one of their support riders for the rest of the way after Gianni Moscon was expelled by race organizers for apparently hitting Elie Gesbert of Team Fortuneo. A breakaway group of 29 riders—none of which posed a threat to Thomas' overall lead—got away early. Cort Nielsen, Izaguirre and Mollema dropped the five other remaining escapees before disputing the stage win among themselves. With all three riders sizing one another up, Cort Nielsen stayed in front of the other two when they broke into a sprint. □



Tennis Hall of Fame inductees Helena Sukova, of Czech Republic, and Michael Stich, of Germany, react as they are introduced by Stan Smith, middle, at a news conference at the International Tennis Hall of Fame, Saturday, July 21, 2018, in Newport, R.I.

Associated Press

choice now that he has a home in the International Tennis Hall of Fame. The 49-year-old German and Helena Sukova were inducted on Saturday during a ceremony on New-

Michael Stich, Helena Sukova inducted into tennis hall

port's grass court, the only members of the class of 2018.

"I played till I was 18," Stich said during a news conference. "There was a little bit of a decision between soccer and tennis, but I preferred tennis because I didn't have to deal with 10 other guys messing up on the pitch. It was only up to me to mess up."

Stich captured his only Grand Slam singles title in 1991, beating countryman Boris Becker, also a Hall of Famer, at Wimbledon. He was a U.S. Open finalist in 1994 and runner-up at the 1996 French Open.

He joined Becker to win

gold in doubles at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics.

"It was always said that we didn't get along," Stich said. "Obviously, as we were rivals, we could get along. I think we benefited a lot from each other because we always wanted to be better than the other player," he said. "We proved it to ourselves and to everyone else that it was possible to follow our goal."

Sukova captured a combined 14 Slam doubles titles—nine in women's and five in mixed. She was runner-up in singles at four majors—twice each at the Australian and U.S. opens.

"For me, the most impor-

tant (thing) was playing the singles," she said. "I didn't really like to practice, so doubles was perfect."

The 53-year-old Czech reflected on her biggest singles win, beating Martina Navratilova at the 1984 Australian Open to end her string of 74 consecutive match victories, including six straight Slam titles.

"I had like three press conferences every day after that," she said. "Before that, I barely had one."

Hall of Famer Jim Courier jokingly told the crowd that he checked his record against Stich before heading from his New York City home. □

By KEN POWTAK

Associated Press

NEWPORT, R.I. (AP) — When Michael Stich was a teenager, he had to choose a sport—soccer or tennis. It seems he made right

TOURIST FLEA MARKET

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Disney streaming could get boost as Comcast drops Fox bid

By MAE ANDERSON
AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Comcast is dropping its bid for Fox's entertainment businesses, paving the way for Disney to boost its upcoming streaming service by buying the studios behind "The Simpsons" and X-Men. Getting Fox would help the House of Mouse compete with technology companies such as Amazon and Netflix for viewers' attention — and dollars.

Disney needs compelling TV shows and movies to persuade viewers to sign up and pay for yet another streaming service. It already has classic Disney cartoons, "Star Wars," Pixar, the Muppets and some of the Marvel characters. With Fox, Disney could add Marvel's X-Men and Deadpool, along with programs shown on such Fox channels as FX Networks and National Geographic. Fox's productions also include "The Americans," "This Is Us" and "Modern Family."

The deal would help Disney further control TV shows and movies from start to finish — from creating the programs to distributing them through television channels, movie theaters, streaming services and other ways people watch entertainment. Disney would get valuable data on customers and their entertainment-viewing habits, which it can then use to sell advertising.

For Comcast, dropping the pursuit of Fox lets it focus on getting European pay-TV operator Sky, a deal that would help the Philadelphia-based cable and media company expand beyond the U.S.

Fox shareholders are to vote on the Disney deal on July 27.

Cable and telecom com-



This June 14, 2018, file photo shows the 21st Century Fox logo outside its New York office. **Associated Press**

panies have been buying the companies that make TV shows and movies to compete in a changing media landscape. Although internet providers like AT&T and Comcast directly control their customers' access to the internet in a way that Amazon, YouTube and Netflix do not, they still face threats as those streaming services gain in popularity.

AT&T bought Time Warner last month for \$81 billion and has already launched its own streaming service, Watch TV, with Time Warner channels such as TBS and TNT, among other networks, for \$15 a month.

Expect something similar from Disney after the deal closes. In addition to boosting the Disney streaming service, expected to debut next year, the deal paves the way for Marvel's

X-Men and the Avengers to reunite in future movies. Though Disney owns Marvel Studios, some characters including the X-Men had already been licensed to Fox.

Disney would also get a controlling stake in the existing streaming service Hulu.

Separately, Disney said it will release new episodes of the "Star Wars" animated series "The Clone Wars" on its upcoming streaming service.

The original "Clone Wars" series ran for six seasons, with the final one as a Netflix exclusive.

Comcast said Thursday that it would not raise its \$66 billion offer for Fox. The Walt Disney Co. had topped Comcast's bid by offering \$71 billion. The U.S. Department of Justice has approved Disney's bid as

toward integrating our businesses," he said in a statement.

GBH Insights analyst Daniel Ives called Comcast's move "the final chapter in this soap opera." He said Comcast's focus now is on getting Sky "to build a strong beachhead content strategy in Europe."

Sky operates in Austria, Germany, Ireland, Italy and the U.K. It has 22.5 million customers, attracted by offerings such as English Premier League soccer and "Game of Thrones."

Fox has been trying to buy the 61 percent of Sky it doesn't already own. The idea was to sell Sky to Disney as part of the broader deal. Last week, Comcast made a bid that values Sky at \$34 billion, compared with \$32.5 billion in Fox's offer.

Disney said in a regulatory filing last week that Fox might not raise its bid to compete with Comcast's offer, meaning Comcast is likely to end up with Sky and Disney the rest of Fox that's up for sale. That includes other international properties, including the Star India satellite service. Some Fox businesses, including Fox News Channel and the Fox television network, will remain with media mogul Rupert Murdoch and his family. □

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All shell, no shock: Lobster prices strong, season picks up

By PATRICK WHITTLE

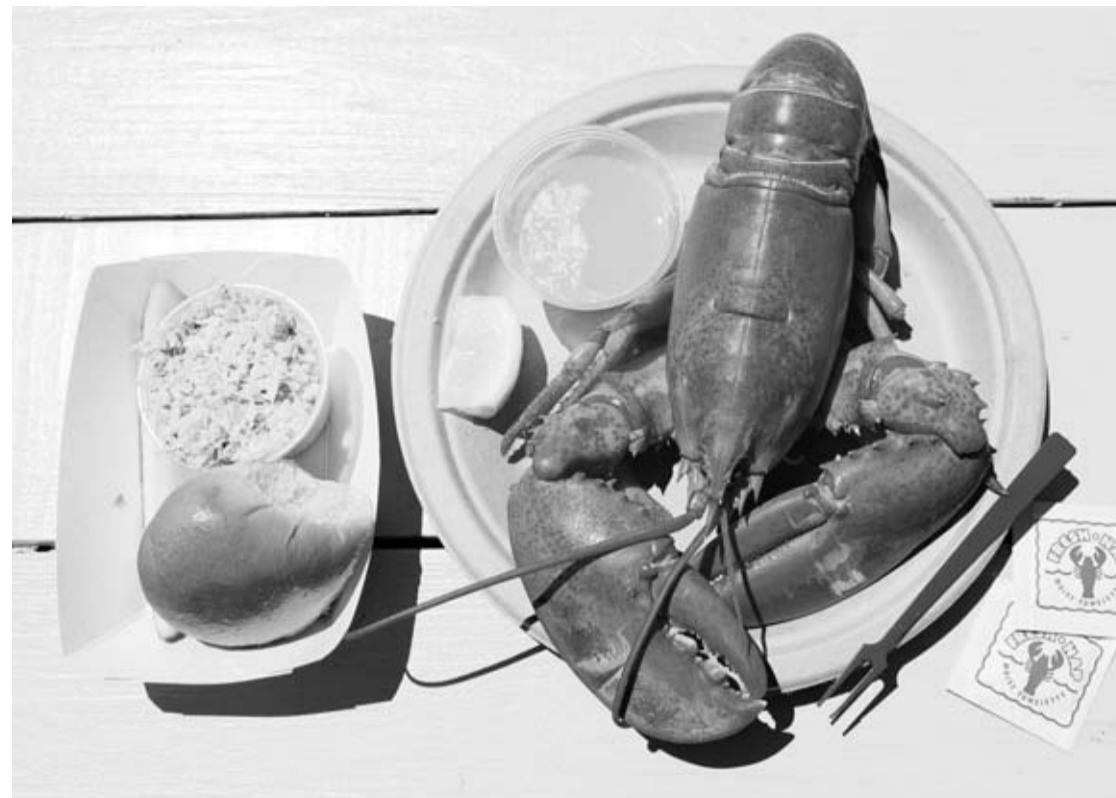
PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — New England's lobster industry faces big new challenges in selling to Europe and China, but the trouble hasn't caused prices to budge much for American consumers.

The business is in the midst of its busiest part of the year, when tourists flock to coastal states with a beachside lobster dinner in mind. Summer is also when prices tend to fall a bit because it's when the majority of lobsters are caught.

But the prices haven't fallen much. Retailers are selling live lobsters in the \$7 to \$12 per pound (per 0.45 kilogram) range in Maine, where the American lobster industry is based. That's not too far behind recent summers.

"It's starting to pick up, so of course the price is dropping. But that's pretty normal," said William Adler, a lobsterman out of Green Harbor, Massachusetts. "Now it's starting to come alive, and prices are still good right now."

Members of the industry are concerned about heavy new tariffs applied



In this Thursday, July 19, 2018 photo, a cooked lobster is served on a picnic table at McLoon's Lobster Shack in Spruce Head, Maine.

Associated Press

by China to U.S. seafood this month, because that country is a major lobster buyer. Canada also recently brokered a deal with the European Union to remove tariffs on Canadian lobster exports to Europe, while the U.S. has no such agreement.

But the tariffs do not ap-

pear to be hurting the U.S. business right now, in part because the summer season is more about domestic consumption than overseas sales, said Kristan Porter, president of the Maine Lobstermen's Association. One of the reasons the tariffs aren't affecting lobster prices in the U.S. is that lob-

stermen catch a lot of soft-shell lobsters, also called shedders, in the summer, Porter said. Hard-shell lobsters are preferable for shipping because shedders are less likely to survive the journey.

"How many shedders go to China? You can ship them all you want," Porter said. "I

know it has been dropping, but the price has been decent." Despite the solid prices, some in the industry are concerned about what will happen with the volume of catch this year. About four-fifths of the nation's lobster catch comes to land in Maine, and the state's haul dropped by about 16 percent, to 110.8 million pounds (50.3 million kilograms), last year.

Catch has been somewhat slow in Casco Bay, a key lobster fishing area in southern Maine, but there's still a lot of fishing left to do this summer, said Steve Train, a lobsterman from Long Island, Maine.

"It comes on in fits and spurts, then a place that did well dies," he said. "I would say we're well below average."

The industry also can't get too comfortable because the China tariffs represent a long-term threat. The Maine congressional delegation has called the lobster industry an "irreplaceable piece of our state's economy that supports thousands of jobs" and could be hurt by an escalating trade war with China. □

Insider Q&A: Being creative about hiring in tight job market

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Paul McDonald, senior executive director at the staffing firm Robert Half International, has seen job markets of both extremes in his 35 years in recruiting: The ultra-low unemployment of the late 1990s, sky-high unemployment during the Great Recession and now back to a jobless rate of just 4 percent.

McDonald's firm focuses on placing professional staffers in such fields as accounting, finance, technology and high-end administrative work. Unemployment has remained low in those fields for years, giving McDonald, based in Menlo Park, California, experience in how companies — and jobseekers — should proceed in a tight labor market.

The Associated Press spoke with McDonald about today's job market.

The 4 percent unemployment rate is near multi-decade lows. How would you compare this period to others you've experienced? This one seems to be longer-lasting and more robust. The job gains have been very consistent over a number of months and years. It's a very good time to look for a job. Companies need to be on top of their game in order to attract talent and retain the talent.

And how are companies doing that? How have they changed their hiring practices in this tight job market?

It's always about recruiting. It's not just a "post-and-hope" environment." That's a strategy for losing in to-

day's market. What's winning is that you're offering employee referral bonuses. You're tapping all your networks. You're looking for people who maybe could boomerang back into your company after leaving two years ago, if they left on good terms. Another strategy we're seeing is part-time employment for someone who may have had a life event. Maybe they decided to start a family, they left you a couple of years ago and now they would work part time. Offering remote opportunities has also been a really popular strategy.

Are companies loosening their skill demands to find the workers they need? Maybe they're hiring someone with 75 to 80 percent of the job description. The mandatory skills are there, and then they're looking at



This undated photo provided by Robert Half International Inc. shows Paul McDonald, senior executive director at the staffing firm Robert Half International.

Associated Press

the cultural fit, the soft skills ability, the business acumen. And then they train up for the weaknesses that person might have in their skill sets. That strategy has been really effective. Given low unemployment,

should job-seekers demand higher pay than they received in their previous job?

The further you stray from your experience, the lower the expectation should be on compensation. □

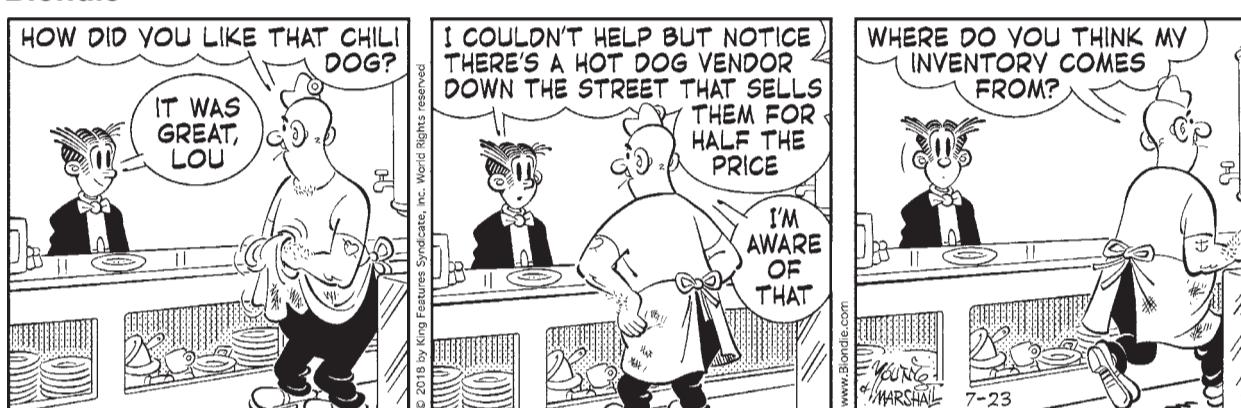
Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

		3	8	9							
1		9									8
9		4		5							
	5										
3		5	4								2
2	9	7									5
			1	9							6
6											
	3		7	3							5
		7	8								

Difficulty Level ★

7/23

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

6	3	7	8	1	5	4	9	2			
8	1	9	3	2	4	6	7	5			
2	5	4	6	9	7	1	8	3			
3	6	5	4	8	1	7	2	9			
9	7	8	2	5	6	3	4	1			
1	4	2	9	7	3	8	5	6			
5	8	3	1	4	9	2	6	7			
4	9	1	7	6	2	5	3	8			
7	2	6	5	3	8	9	1	4			

Saturday's puzzle answer

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
				14	15					16		
					18					19		
				21	22					23		
										26		
											30	31
						33	34			35		36
					38					39		
										42		
											45	
												48
												50
												52
												53
												54

ACROSS

- 1 Pres. William Howard —
 5 Stubborn animal
 9 Word attached to stick or happy
 13 Lubricated
 15 Come __; find
 16 Bagel's center
 17 Piece of grass
 18 Deliberately ruins another's plans
 20 Suffix for lion or govern
 21 Actor's signal
 23 Most unusual
 24 Stacks
 26 Initials for Coretta's hubby
 27 Crab Louie & coleslaw
 29 Afternoon rest
 32 Cream of the crop
 33 Shoelace woes
 35 Rip off
 37 Big __; 18-wheelers
 38 Crazy
 39 Show courage
 40 "Nonsense!"
 41 Fruit __; colorful cold cereal
 42 Sulks
 43 __ out; batted unsuccessfully
 45 Fragrances
 46 __ roll; winning and winning
 47 "Carmen" or "Rigoletto"
 48 Worldwide
 51 Pop singer Bobby
 52 __ for tat
 55 __ in; enjoy the richness of
 58 Not savvy
 60 Generations
 61 Look-alike
 62 S, M, L and XL
 63 Car ding
 64 Strong urges
 65 State of disarray
- 2 Feels miserable
 3 Brit's "torch"
 4 One of the Kennedys
 5 Contemplates
 6 __ tree; cornered
 7 Bowl clumsily
 8 Hugeness
 9 Ocean dangers
 10 Theater box
 11 Pub drinks
 12 Nuisance
 14 Ten-year period
 19 Yarns
 22 FedEx competitor
 25 Dines
 27 Many a Belgrade resident
 28 Word on a wanted poster
 29 Offspring
 30 Put through a terrible ordeal
 31 Vital artery
 33 Nutcase
 34 KLM followers
 36 Mrs. Truman
- DOWN
- 1 "Who Wants — a Millionaire"

D	O	M		S	C	I	F	I	A	R	C	H
A	G	E		T	H	O	R	N	F	I	R	E
D	R	A	T		R	O	W	E	G	L	E	N
E	L	A	B	O	R	A	T	E	H	E	W	S
	T	A	K	E								
A	C	C	U	S	E	B	O	T	A	N	I	S
R	O	O	T	S	L	O	N	E	D	E	W	
D	A	T	E	P	A	G	E	D	T	Y	N	E
O	C	T	C	R	I	E	S	F	A	L	S	E
R	H	A	P	S	O	D	Y	M	I	S	L	D
S	A	R	I	B								
N	O	D	S	E								

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 7/23/18

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

D	O	M		S	C	I	F	I	A	R	C	H
A	G	E		T	H	O	R	N	F	I	R	E
D	R	A	T		R	O	W	E	G	L	E	N
E	L	A	B	O	R	A	T	E	H	E	W	S
	T	A	K	E								
A	C	C	U	S	L	O	N	E	D	E	W	
R	O	O	T	S	N	O	N	E	N	D	R	
D	A	T	E	P	A	G	E	D	T	Y	N	E
O	C	T	C	R	I	E	S	F	A	L	I	E
R	H	A	P	S	O	D	Y	M	I	S	L	D
S	A	R	I	B								
N	O	D	S	E								

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- 38 Place
 39 Entryway
 41 Of the moon
 42 Prims
 44 Hearty
 45 Make fun of
 47 Heating chambers
 48 Pleased
 49 Sled race
- 50 Beasts of burden
 53 Currier's printmaking partner
 54 Actress Harper
 56 Sense of wonder
 57 Cheap metal
 59 Goal



This artist rendering from the Natural History Museum of Utah shows an ankylosaur, a squat plant-eater that was covered in bony armor from its spiky head to its clubbed tail, that has been unveiled at the museum in Salt Lake City.

Associated Press

Armored dinosaur with spiky head unveiled at Utah museum

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — A dinosaur that was covered in bony armor from its spiky head to its clubbed tail has been unveiled at a museum in Utah. The species of ankylosaur was a squat plant-eater that roamed southern Utah on four legs about 76 million years ago, during the late Cretaceous Period. At that time, the desert state was hot and humid, covered with slow-moving streams and rivers as well as large conifer trees, paleontologist Randall Irmis said. It was about as long as a large alligator and stood at a height that would have been about waist-high for a tall human. It likely used its distinctive clubbed tail and armor for protection, though they could also have been used for display. The fossil unveiled Thursday at the Natural History Museum of Utah was first discovered in 2008 in the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, a rich dinosaur repository in southern Utah. The fossil was discovered on the Kaiparowits Formation, a thick layer of sandstone that also has vast coal reserves inside a sprawling national monument that was one of two President Donald Trump ordered downsized last year. The spot where the fossil

was found remains within Grand Staircase-Escalante boundaries, though areas that are now outside the boundaries also have fossil potential, Irmis said. Researchers were expecting it to have smooth bony armor on its skull like other North American ankylosaurs, but were surprised to find evidence that it instead had spiky armor on its head and snout, similar to fossils found in Asia. Paleontologists believe the animals migrated to North America several times over the eons when lowered sea levels allowed them to cross a land bridge. The species was dubbed *Akainacephalus johnsoni* to recognize Randy Johnson, a retired chemist and museum volunteer who spent hundreds of hours painstakingly freeing the skull from rock and debris. □

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Assistant Director

Xiomara Arends

Editor in Chief

Linda Reijnders
(linda.reijnders@cspnv.com)

Editors

Richard Brooks
Jeancarlo Trinidad

Sales

Linda Reijnders
(linda.reijnders@cspnv.com)
Marijke Croes
Mary-Ann Oduber

Classifieds

Rachelle Danje
(rachelle.danje@cspnv.com)

Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website

Jeancarlo Trinidad

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Gene tests can provide health clues -- and needless worry

By MALCOLM RITTER

AP Science Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Last year, Katie Burns got a phone call that shows what can happen in medicine when information runs ahead of knowledge.

Burns learned that a genetic test of her fetus had turned up an abnormality. It appeared in a gene that, when it fails to work properly, causes heart defects, mental disability and other problems. But nobody knew whether the specific abnormality detected by the test would cause trouble.

"I was pretty distraught," says Burns, a photographer in Charlotte, North Carolina. "I had a baby who was kicking. I could feel him moving inside of me. But at the same time I had this ache in my chest. What was his life going to be for him?"

It took two months to get more reliable information, and Burns says she wasn't really sure of the answer until after she gave birth in October to a healthy boy. Her experience is a glimpse into a surprising paradox of modern-day genetics: Scientists have made huge leaps in rapidly decoding people's DNA, but they sometimes don't know what their findings mean. They can even get fooled. That can come to a head when medical professionals have people tested for genetic variants that cause or promote a disease, usually because they show symptoms or an illness runs in their family. The testing often focuses on relatively rare disorders, caused by a single gene.

Medicine is getting into genetic testing in a big way. One recent estimate found nearly 75,000 health-relat-



Kendra Snyder, right, talks with patrons at Checkers Bar & Grill in Mount Union, Pa., on Monday, July 16, 2018.

Associated Press

ed DNA tests being marketed by American labs to health care providers, mostly for single-gene disorders, with the total growing rapidly. And this year, the Pennsylvania-based Geisinger health system began offering free genetic testing to its patients as a standard part of its disease prevention efforts, along with things like mammograms and cholesterol checks.

Americans are interested in what their genes say about their health. Poll results released Thursday by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research found that 60 percent would want to know if they carried a variant associated with even an incurable disease.

But DNA test results can be puzzling. Katie Burns' fetus had what experts call a "variant of uncertain significance," or a VUS. Many are known: One standard database contains almost 193,000 variants categorized as a VUS, more than twice the number of listed variants known to cause disease.

Each variant may be seen in only one or a handful of patients. But as a group,

many thousands of them are being reported to patients, said Heidi Rehm of Boston's Massachusetts General Hospital and the Broad Institute in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The rates vary by disease. In seeking genes to explain a patient's hearing loss, for example, around half of tests will find only a VUS, she said. A child with symptoms that suggest developmental delay or a related disorder might get a test that examines 200 genes, she said. With such a wide net cast, the chances of a VUS are nearly 100 percent, she said.

That can cause more than worry, said Otis Brawley, chief medical and scientific officer for the American Cancer Society. He tells of women who got breasts removed after learning they had a VUS in a gene linked to breast cancer — only to learn years later that further research showed the variants were harmless.

How can this be? How can scientists not know whether a DNA abnormality is dangerous?

To understand that, it helps to know a bit about DNA. In each of us, the genetic

code is like a text with 3 billion letters. Some of those letters spell words — genes — that carry out specific jobs. If a gene has one or more letters that aren't the ones found in the generic "spelling" of human DNA, they are called variants.

Some variants lead to disease. But each of us carries many variants, and most are harmless. You can't tell their effect just by looking at them. And just because a variant is rare, that doesn't mean it's harmful. Scientists do have ways to determine if a variant is risky or not, but they often don't have enough information to make the call. That's what happened to Katie Burns.

She had the genetic test done because of an unusual finding on a fetal ultrasound scan. The VUS prompted her genetic counselor to suggest testing both her and her husband to see if they had the variant. The counselor also brought up the possibility of an abortion.

"Termination was off the table," Burns said.

Instead, Burns scoured the internet. In a searchable database of genetic variants called Clinvar, she saw that Rehm's laboratory had encountered the variant found in her fetus, and classified it as a VUS.

Burns contacted Rehm, who provided some reassurance. In the years since the 2013 classification as VUS, the variant had turned up in three members of the general public, and Rehm told Burns she suspected that either she or her husband would be found to have the variant. That would give further evidence that it's harmless.

When Burns later learned that the variant appeared

in her healthy husband, "a lot of stress kind of eased off."

And in October, her son was born without any trace of the disease.

So how should a person react to a VUS? Genetic counselors say it should be considered along with the person's other medical information, but not used as the sole reason for a major decision like breast removal.

That message has not gotten through to some doctors, said Dr. Allison Kurian of Stanford University. She recently surveyed surgeons about tests that examined the BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes, in which certain mutations can greatly increase the risk of breast cancer. Many surgeons said they'd treat a patient with a VUS the same way as if she had a known disease-promoting mutation.

"That is not a correct recommendation," Kurian said. "Those two things are different. ... We need to have expert genetic counseling more closely integrated into the care of breast cancer patients."

Kendra Snyder, of Newton Hamilton, Pennsylvania, recalls being told by her genetic counselor "just to live your normal life" after VUS results this year. She had taken the test because of a heart condition.

"I was a little upset," she said. "I was hoping I'd have more conclusive answers as to why my heart is like this."

But upon reflection, she said, she realized she shouldn't stress over it, because doing so would reduce her quality of life. As for the VUS finding, "it's there, but I'm not really panicking and thinking much about it." □

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'Hamilton' creator announces arts fund for Puerto Rico

By DANICA COTO
Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico

(AP) — Lin-Manuel Miranda jumped up to a podium shortly after landing in Puerto Rico on Sunday to announce he has helped create a multimillion-dollar fund to boost the arts in the U.S. territory as it struggles to recover from Hurricane Maria.

The "Hamilton" playwright said he hopes the fund will grow to \$15 million in upcoming years. He added that he will donate all funds from the Broadway hit when it is performed January in Puerto Rico.

"The goal wasn't just artistic satisfaction, but how can we leave Puerto Rico a little better than we found it," said Miranda, whose parents are from the island.

Hurricane Maria caused damage estimated at more than \$100 billion when it hit in September. Cultural and

artistic groups across Puerto Rico have been greatly affected, losing government and nonprofit support amid an 11-year-old recession.

The first five recipients of the fund include a dance school and a theater company. "This will allow us to start dreaming again, to come up with new ideas, to visit more cities. This will allow us to breathe," Julio Morales, artistic co-director of the local theater company, Y No Habia Luz, told The Associated Press.

The seven-member company will receive \$180,000. It had struggled to find funds and was forced to cancel all events for several months after the hurricane.

The nonprofit Flamboyan Foundation will manage the fund, which will award \$1 million each to the Theater of the University of Puerto Rico and the Puerto Rico Museum of Art. An



Hamilton playwright Lin-Manuel Miranda gives a press conference at the Art Museum of Puerto Rico, as his father Luis Miranda looks on, in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Sunday, July 22, 2018.

Associated Press

award of \$900,000 will go to an art education program and a dance school.

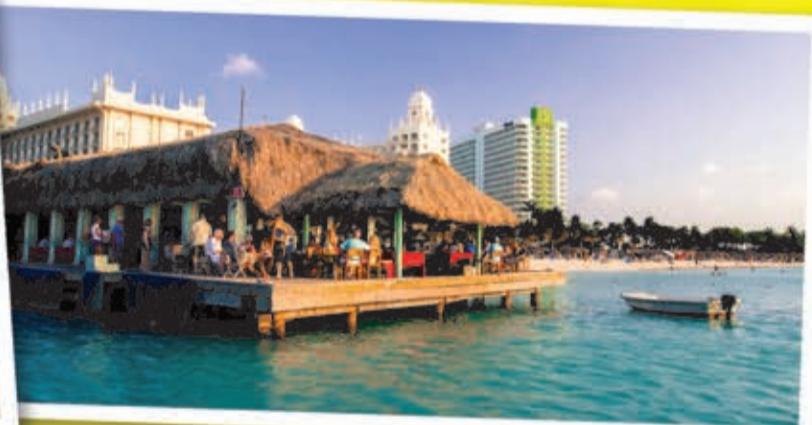
Among those visiting Puerto Rico for the announcement

was Hamilton producer Jeffrey Seller.

"Arts will be at the center of the rebuilding effort," he said, noting that he is

excited about the show's upcoming run in Puerto Rico. "The point is to lift everybody up for those three weeks." □

Crazy Fish Monday at **BUGALOE**



Join Bugaloe for Crazy Fish Mondays!

Bugaloe Beach Bar & Grill is perfectly located between the Riu Palace Hotel and Hilton Resort on the famous Palm Pier with stunning 360° views of the crystal clear ocean. Open daily from 7.30am till midnight, Mondays are known as Crazy Fish Mondays for the delicious fresh fish dishes the chef at Bugaloe serves up.

Crazy Fish Mondays include a Fried Fish Basket for \$13, Red Snapper for just \$20 or Mahi Mahi for only \$18. Fresher than fresh is the motto of Bugaloe Beach Bar & Grill. Caught in the morning, served at night... That's the Bugaloe way!

In addition to Crazy Fish Mondays, Bugaloe has a weekly line-up of live entertainment and daily happy hours from 5-6pm and 10-11pm. Follow your tapping feet down to the music where smiles and fun await you! Reservations are recommended.

'Equalizer 2' squeaks past 'Mamma Mia 2' and takes top spot

By LINDSEY BAHR

AP Film Writer

In the battle of two very different sequels at the box office this weekend, Denzel Washington's action pic "The Equalizer 2" has narrowly won out over the ABBA jukebox musical "Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again."

Studios on Sunday estimate that the R-rated Denzel Washington joint grossed \$35.8 million from North American theaters over the weekend. It's Washington's first ever sequel and the biggest opening of director Antoine Fuqua's career. The first "Equalizer," from 2014, opened similarly and went on to earn over \$190 million worldwide.

Second place went to Universal Pictures' "Mamma Mia 2," which took in \$34.4 million, a sum that was driven by an audience that was 83 percent female and 64 percent over the age of 25. The film brought back much of the original cast, like Meryl Streep, Amanda Seyfried and Pierce Brosnan, and add-



In this Monday, July 10, 2017 file photo, Sir Paul McCartney performs at Amalie Arena in Tampa, Fla.

ed Cher, Andy Garcia and Lily James to the mix. Critics overall gave the sequel better marks than the first, which still went on to gross over \$600 million worldwide 10 years ago.

"We consider this a terrific opening," said Jim Orr, Universal's president of domestic distribution. "And

knowing the audience for these types of films, we are going to have a very healthy run at the domestic and worldwide box office. This is a very fun, very uplifting movie that people need right now."

It's also a rare showdown of two star-driven films that succeeded in targeting two very different audiences. "It's amazing how well-matched these contend-

ers are," said comScore senior media analyst Paul Dergarabedian. "Both studios really did a great job of marketing each of these movies to their target audience. It's classic counter-programming."

Sequels powered the top six spots at the domestic box office this weekend and eight out of the top 10 overall. "Hotel Transylvania 3: Summer Vacation"

Associated Press

came in third with \$23.2 million in its second weekend, "Ant-Man and the Wasp" took fourth place with \$16.1 million in its third weekend, "Incredibles 2" landed in fifth with \$11.5 million, and "Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom" came in sixth with \$11 million. The weekend's other big new opener, "Unfriended: Dark Web," also a sequel, scared up \$3.5 million for a ninth-place start. The only two originals in the top 10 were "Skyscraper" and "Sorry to Bother You."

"People are enjoying these films," said Dergarabedian. "It doesn't matter if there's a number after the title."

And yet there are still original films and documentaries making their own modest impact on the charts, including "Blindspotting," a buddy comedy with some serious themes about race and class starring Tony-winner Daveed Diggs that opened in 14 theaters and made an estimated \$332,500.

"Movies like 'Sorry to Bother You' and 'Blindspotting' are showing that in the summer people don't live by blockbusters alone," Dergarabedian said. □

MEGAPLEX 8

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JULY 19 - 25

THE EQUALIZER (R) DENZEL WASHINGTON | PEDRO PASCAL

MON-THURS 3:55 | 5:15 | 6:35 | 7:50 | 9:15 | 11:00
FRI 3:55 | 5:15 | 6:35 | 7:50 | 9:15 | 10:25 | 11:00
SAT 2:40 | 3:55 | 5:15 | 6:35 | 7:50 | 9:15 | 11:00
SUN 2:40 | 3:55 | 5:15 | 6:35 | 7:50 | 9:15

MAMMA MIA! HERE WE GO AGAIN (PG-13) AMANDA SEYFRIED | MERYL STREEP

CXC PREMIUM LARGE FORMAT AUDITORIUM
2D MON-THURS 4:10 | 6:40 | 9:10
FRI 4:10 | 6:40 | 9:10 | 11:40
SAT 1:40 | 4:10 | 6:40 | 9:10 | 11:40
SUN & HOL 1:40 | 4:10 | 6:40 | 9:10

SKYSCRAPER (PG-13) DWAYNE JOHNSON | NEVE CAMPBELL

MON-THURS 4:50 | 7:05 | 9:20
FRIDAY 4:50 | 7:05 | 9:20 | 11:35
SATURDAY 2:35 | 4:50 | 7:05 | 9:20 | 11:35
SUN & HOL 2:35 | 4:50 | 7:05 | 9:20

HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA 3: SUMMER VACATION (PG) ADAM SANDLER | SELENA GOMEZ

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-FRI 4:30 | 6:40 | 8:30
SAT & SUN 2:20 | 4:30 | 6:40 | 8:30

JURASSIC WORLD (PG-13) CHRIS PRATT | JEFF GOLDBLUM

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-SUN 4:10 | 6:50

ANT-MAN AND THE WASP (PG-13) PAUL RUDD | EVANGELINE LILLY

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-FRIDAY 4:15 | 6:50 | 9:25
SAT & SUN 1:45 | 4:15 | 6:50 | 9:25

MISSION IMPOSSIBLE FALLOUT (PG-13) SLYVESTER STALLONE | DAVE BAUTISTA

MON-THURS & SUN 9:30
FRI & SAT 9:30 | 11:40

ESCAPE PLAN (R) PAUL BETTANY | JEREMY PIVEN

MON-THURS & SUN 9:30
FRI & SAT 9:30 | 11:40

STARTING JULY 26: MISSION IMPOSSIBLE FALLOUT, TEEN TITANS GO! TO THE MOVIES

Palm Beach Plaza | THE MAGIC OF THE MOVIES ON YOUR MOBILE DEVICE

Margaret Thatcher's spouse not happy about McCartney invite



In this Monday, July 10, 2017 file photo, Sir Paul McCartney performs at Amalie Arena in Tampa, Fla.

Associated Press

By GREGORY KATZ

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Most hosts would be quite happy to have Paul McCartney come to a shindig. But that wasn't the case with Denis Thatcher in 1988 when planning a gala reception

at 10 Downing Street.

Newly released papers show that the late husband of former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher put a question mark next to the former Beatle's name on a proposed guest list he was reviewing.

The papers, released Saturday, show Denis Thatcher leaving check marks next to the guests he approved and question marks next to those he was less comfortable with.

The papers didn't offer an explanation of why he questioned the inclusion of the ex-Beatle. In a note, he wrote that he didn't mind inviting guests who didn't back the prime minister but questioned inviting those who had criticized his wife

in public.

"Whilst I accept of course that not everyone who comes to our receptions are necessarily on 'our' side I find it both unpleasant and embarrassing to entertain those who publicly insult the PM," he said. The April 1988 reception was planned as a way to reward 45 celebrities who had attended a rally during Margaret Thatcher's successful 1987 general election campaign.

All four went on to greater honors: McCartney — one of the most popular entertainers in the world — and Coe were later made knights and Bassey became a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 2000. □

Author tells of kidnapping by pirates he'd gone to interview

By JOHN ROGERS

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Michael Scott Moore is walking a bit gingerly these days, but it has nothing to do with the 2½ years he spent imprisoned by Somali pirates, the beatings he suffered, his time spent in chains or the lousy food that caused him to lose 40 pounds.

"I got thumped by a wave surfing off Manhattan Beach the other day," the author of "The Desert and the Sea: 977 days Captive on the Somali Pirate Coast" says with a sheepish grin. "I've got a cracked rib."

Otherwise Moore, freed by his pirate captors in 2014 after his mother raised a \$1.6 million ransom, looks fine. He's dressed casually in a dark blue shirt and jeans as he sits down in the shade of the century-old art-deco building that houses Los Angeles' downtown library to talk about his latest book. "The Desert and the Sea" goes on sale Tuesday, and its 49-year-old author is about to embark on a cross-country tour of readings and signings.

The page-turning thriller, published by Harper Collins, takes readers on a relentless journey as Moore reveals the squalid living conditions that nearly killed him, the beatings he endured and the thoughts of suicide he weighed, along with other thoughts of grabbing one of his captor's machine guns (they were careless about leaving them lying around) and seeing how many of them he could kill before they killed him.

"I don't know," he says with a smile when asked how he survived it all.

After several seconds of quiet contemplation, he adds that a combination of giving up any immediate hope of freedom and living in the moment helped. So did maintaining a sense of humor while trapped in a very unfunny situation. Thus, the book contains several darkly comic moments.

Like the one when Moore hid the keys to the chains

the pirates kept him in after he tried to escape by leaping from an old fishing vessel and attempting to swim to shore. They never could find them and had to buy a new set, something that delighted their captive.

Or the time one of the friendlier pirates, knowing Moore holds dual U.S.-German citizenship, woke him one morning to say excitedly that Germany, that year's World Cup winner, defeated Brazil 7-1 in the semifinal game. Moore dismissed the news as "more pirate bull---," replying that no team scores seven goals in a soccer game. Then he turned on the radio and learned it was true.

Moore first thought of writing a book about modern-day piracy when he came across examples of it in coastal African and southeast Asian nations he visited while seeking out some of the world's best surfing spots for a 2010 book, "Sweetness and Blood," documenting how a loose-knit band of hippies, star-struck wanderers and U.S. military personnel helped turn an ancient Hawaiian sport into an international pop-culture phenomenon, has been hailed as arguably the best historical account of modern-day surfing.

His plans to report on piracy weren't sealed, however, until he covered the trial of 10 pirates captured after abducting a German cargo ship off Somalia in 2010. Their two-year trial, which Moore covered for the publication Spiegel Online, marked the first case of piracy prosecuted in Germany in nearly 400 years.

"I really wanted to write a book that had material that I hadn't seen. On pirates," he says now. "And it became an obsession."

By the time he arrived in Somalia in January 2012, piracy had become a cottage industry for a nation plunged into poverty and lawlessness by years of civil unrest. Young men unable to find other work sailed the high seas in small skiffs looking for people to kidnap



In this June 20, 2018 photo, Michael Scott Moore, author of "The Desert and the Sea: 977 Days Captive on the Somali Pirate Coast," poses for a portrait at Los Angeles Public Library in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

and hold for multimillion-dollar ransoms.

Moore says he knew going to Somalia was dangerous, but he thought he'd taken all necessary precautions. A "fixer" with clan connections arranged the trip in which he was accompanied by a large contingent of machine-gun-toting guards.

But a pirate leader Moore interviewed betrayed him, paying off most of his security team. Moore was captured on a dusty desert road by pirates who demanded a \$20 million ransom.

As his mother spent years negotiating the price and raising money from family and friends, Moore's plight went largely unreported. His employer, Der Spiegel, asked other news organizations to withhold the story, fearing publicity would drive up the price. Almost all, including The Associated Press, complied.

"Honestly, I don't know if it was better or worse to keep it quiet," he says now. Tall and trim with graying hair, Moore says he has

fully recovered physically from his ordeal, although it took more than a year. He laughs when he recalls that several Asian fishermen he was held captive with remarked, "Michael, you got fat," when they saw him during an emotional 2016 reunion.

He still struggles with some emotional scars and takes part in a therapy called Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing, which involves concentrating on what happened to you while focusing the eyes.

"I don't know if it's trendy or cutting edge," he jokes.

"At times, I think he still has very much trouble sleeping, although he says he doesn't have nightmares," his 78-year-old mother, Marlis Saunders, says in a phone interview from the Redondo Beach home where her only child grew up and became an avid surfer.

Another ex-hostage, former Associated Press correspondent Terry Anderson, says it's unlikely anyone gets completely over such an ordeal.

"That kind of an experience does damage to you that takes a long time to compensate for," said Anderson, who was AP's chief Middle East correspondent when he was abducted by Islamic militants in Lebanon in 1985 and held for nearly seven years. "You don't forget it."

Anderson, 70, says he's glad to hear Moore is getting counseling, adding he underwent it himself but still struggled to accept how emotionally damaging his experience was.

For now, Moore is busy with his book tour and working on a feature story about three men recently convicted of plotting to blow up a Kansas apartment building housing Somali refugees.

After that he'd like to get back to some of the travel writing that took him to many fascinating parts of the world when he was researching his surfing book.

"I don't want to give that up," he says.

Then he laughs as he quickly adds, "It doesn't have to be dangerous travel." □

More than senior moments: better dementia detection is urged

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE
and LINDSEY TANNER

AP Medical Writers

CHICAGO (AP) — Too few people with signs of mental decline or dementia are getting checked during routine medical visits or told when a problem is found, says a panel of Alzheimer's disease experts who offered new guidance Sunday.

The idea is to get help sooner for people whose minds are slipping — even if there's no cure.

Though mental decline can be an uncomfortable topic for patients and their doctors, the panel says family physicians should do a thorough evaluation when concerning symptoms arise and share the diagnosis candidly.

Patients and family members should push for an evaluation if they're worried that symptoms might not be normal aging — the difference between occasionally misplacing keys versus putting them in the freezer or being confused about their function.

"By the time you forget what the keys are for, you're too far gone to participate in your own care. We've lost probably a decade" that could have been spent planning, said the panel's leader, Dr. Alireza Atri, a neurologist at Banner Sun Health Research Institute in Arizona.

It's not just memory that can suffer when mental decline starts, Atri said.

"It's actually people's judgment being off, their character and personality being off," sometimes years before dementia is diagnosed, he said.

THE NEED

About 50 million people worldwide have dementia; Alzheimer's is the most common form. In the United States, nearly 6 million have Alzheimer's and almost 12 million have mild cognitive impairment, a frequent precursor.

In 2015, Alzheimer's Association research using Medicare records suggested that only about half of people who were being



Anne Hunt poses for a portrait in her home in Chicago on Friday, July 13, 2018.

Associated Press

treated for Alzheimer's had been told by their health care provider that they had been diagnosed with the disease.

"All too often, physicians will hear of some symptoms

Medicare recently started covering mental assessments as part of the annual wellness visit, but doctors aren't required to do it and there was no guidance on how to do it, she said. In

diseases, including family history, heart disease and head injuries; pen-and-pencil memory tests; imaging tests to detect small strokes or brain injuries that could be causing memory problems.

TOUGH TOPIC

Dr. Michael Sitorius, family medicine chairman at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, said dealing with mental decline adds to the challenge of caring for often frail elderly patients.

It's a tough diagnosis to make for many doctors, he said, because medical training focuses on "trying to cure people and Alzheimer's and dementia are not curable."

He said he gives his older patients mental tests at their annual checkups — but that sometimes patients or loved ones don't want to hear the results. In those cases, Sitorius still addresses related issues including depression, safeguarding medication, nutrition and whether patients should continue driving. He said the new guidelines are a welcome reminder for family doctors to tackle these issues earlier.

"Clearly ... we could do better," he said.

A diagnosis should never be withheld out of fear of making the patient depressed, Atri said.

"We strongly encourage a full disclosure," including di-



Anne Hunt looks to her husband, Bruce, to be reminded if she already added sugar or not to her dough in their home in Chicago on Friday, July 13, 2018.

Associated Press

or memory complaints from patients or their spouse and say, 'you know, you seem OK to me today,'" so check back in six months, said James Hendrix, an Alzheimer's Association science specialist who worked with the panel. Meantime, the patient may end up hospitalized for problems such as forgetting to take a diabetes medicine because their mental impairment wasn't caught. "We hear stories all the time of people taking years to get an accurate diagnosis," said Nina Silverberg, a psychologist who runs Alzheimer's programs at the National Institute on Aging, which had no role in the guidelines.

some cases, it might be as cursory as asking "how's your memory?"

The panel was appointed by the Alzheimer's Association and included primary care doctors, aging specialists, nurses and a psychiatrist. Broad guidelines were released on Sunday at the group's international conference in Chicago; details will be published later this year.

The guidelines do not recommend screening everyone. They outline what health workers should do if people describe worrisome symptoms. That includes: checking for risk factors that may contribute to dementia or other brain

agnosis, stage and prognosis, he said.

PATIENT'S STORY

At her daughter's urging, Anne Hunt visited her family doctor in 2011 because of increasing forgetfulness. Hunt, 81, who once ran a Chicago cooking school, recalls struggling with memory tests involving letters and numbers that her doctor had her perform. "I thought, 'OK, this is it, I'm a vegetable,'" Hunt said. But the test results were inconclusive and there was no diagnosis.

"We didn't do much about it," said Bruce Hunt, Anne's husband, until five years later, when her behavior was clearly worsening — more memory lapses, repeating herself and forgetting where to put things.

She was diagnosed with Alzheimer's after an imaging test showed brain changes often seen with the disease. Imaging tests are sometimes used along with mental tests to diagnose the disease or rule out other conditions.

IS IT GOOD TO KNOW?

"There's no pill they can take to make it go away, so some people think there's no point to getting a diagnosis," but that's not true, the National Institute of Aging's Silverberg said. "It really does offer an opportunity to plan."

Alzheimer's medicines such as Aricept and Namenda can ease symptoms but aren't a cure.

Experts say other benefits include a chance to join experiments testing treatments, resolve finances, find caregivers, make homes safer and use memory aids and calendars to promote independent living. The Hunts joined support groups and a singing ensemble, hoping that trying new things would help them both cope. They were better prepared than some. Long before her diagnosis, they converted a vintage Chicago apartment building into two spacious homes so they could "age in place" with help from one of their daughters and her family. □